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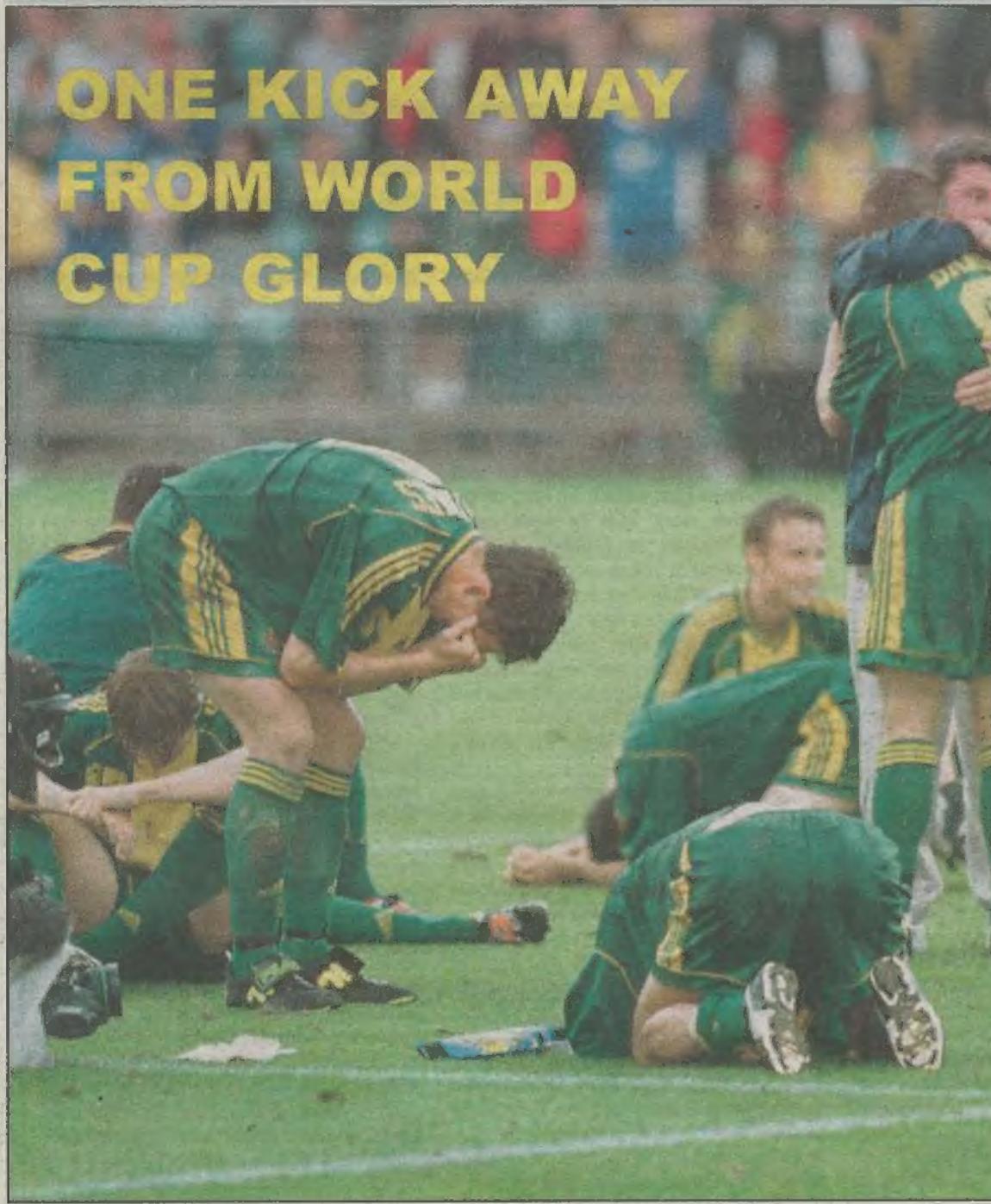
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Registered with Australia Post as a publication PP224696/00050 - ISSN 1321-8980

November 30 1999. \$3.00

JOEYS MAKE HISTORY

ONE KICK AWAY
FROM WORLD
CUP GLORY



Yes we know that superpower Brazil won the under-17 World Cup on Saturday. History will record an 8-7 shootout win following Australia's refusal to concede an inch in a gruelling 0-0 draw after golden goal extra-time. But the real story is that a team of unknowns, from a country struggling to establish itself on the world soccer map, created Australian soccer history on Saturday by becoming Australia's most successful soccer side ever. And they were an agonising one kick away from actually winning the World Cup against the most celebrated soccer nation on the planet.

Just as the Olyroos of 1992 - with their success - captured the imagination of the sporting public, so has our under-17 national team.

Will the media interest last? Probably not, yet the Joeys' sporting phenomenon reached more Australians in this last week than it has in the last 20 years. It was even mentioned in the Victorian parliament.

It has also put pressure firmly on the kids out there - the 14 and 15-year-olds - who will spearhead the Joeys' campaign for glory in 2001. We simply have to go one better and win it next time.

Australia, meet the Kewells and Vidukas of the new century's first few World Cup campaigns.

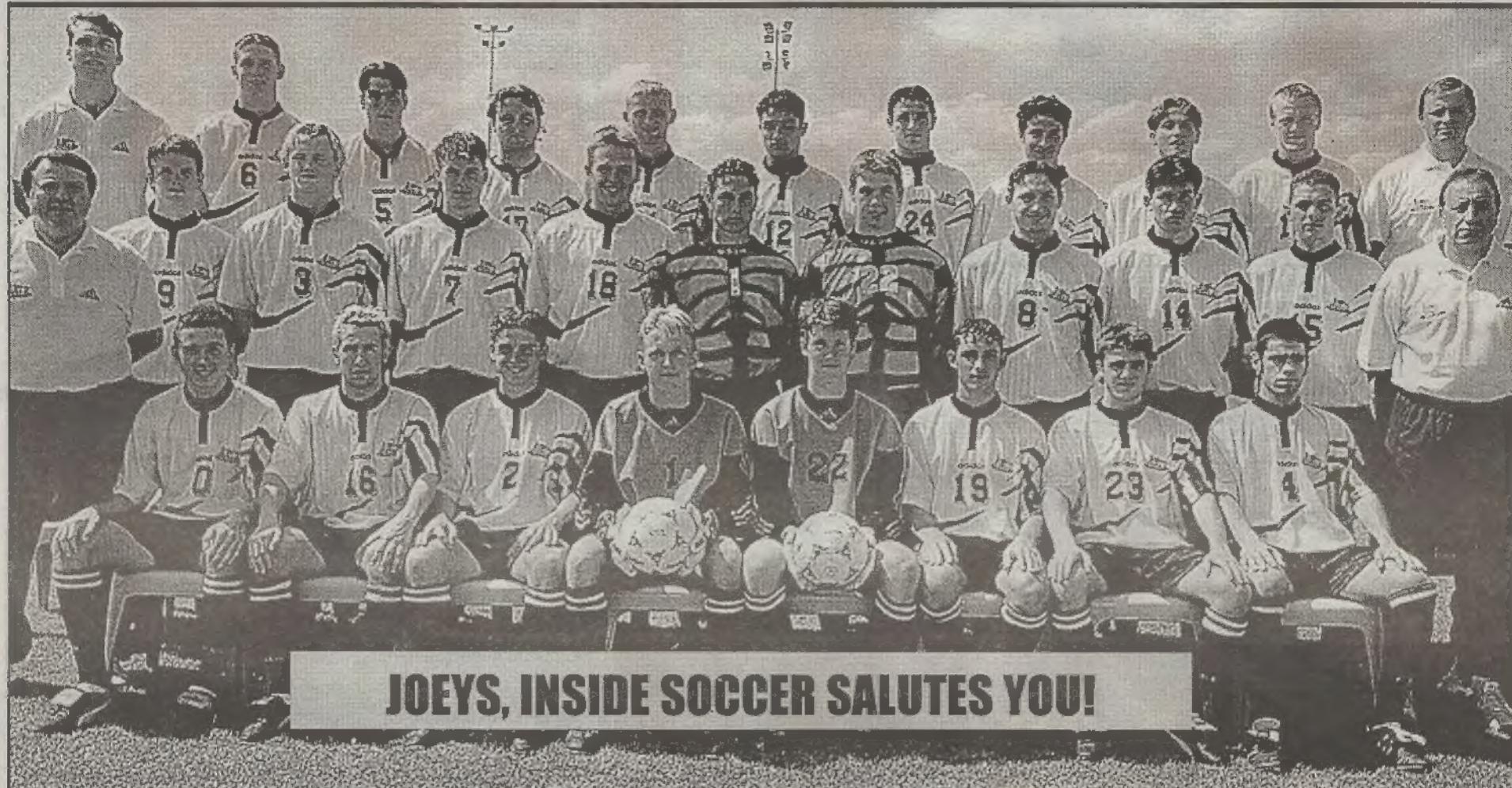
Read on for a full wrap on the amazing last seven days in the life of the Joeys with Inside Soccer's Nick Guoth in New Zealand and Ben Cubby at Sydney airport.

Plus: Craig Johnston, the Matildas' sexy calendar, Force signing Derek Ferguson and Ian Rush in Australia



JOEYS MAKE HISTORY

THE FINAL BY NICK QUOTE IN AUCKLAND



JOEYS, INSIDE SOCCER SALUTES YOU!

So close, and yet there will really be no consolation for the Australians as they deserve a better fate in the 8-7 loss on penalties to defending champion Brazil in the Final of the Under 17 World Cup.

Before a capacity crowd of 22,000 at North Harbour Stadium, the boys from Oceania came within a whisker of showing fans globally that they are the best in the world at this level.

Amidst the crowd were past greats; from Germany Jurgen Klinsman and Franz Beckenbauer who both would have agreed that Australia was emerging as a world force in football and especially at the youth level.

The Australian team, also known as the Joeys, played with great spirit and through this they rattled their more famous, and in some cases more arrogant, opponents.

The Brazilian coach, Carlos Cesar Ramos Custodio, said a week earlier that he felt that the Australians would give them a strong game and thus was not comfortable playing the Joeys.

In the first match of the Group games in Christchurch the two teams met with Brazil winning 2-1. But the Australians were upset after that game as they had chances to win the game and thought they were at least good enough for a draw.

The so called 'Group of Death', Group C, showed just how superior they were by supplying the two teams for the Final.

Both Germany and Mali, who were the other two nations in the group, can surely feel unlucky.

For the Australians, and for Oceania, it was the closest they have been to winning a World Cup Final, the next best being fourth place in the U20's (twice). If only they could transfer those results to senior level.

The game commenced as tense as any Final would be with both teams looking each other over and remembering the pluses and minuses of the Group encounter two weeks earlier.

It was not until the 12th minute that

we saw the first shot of the match - Brazilian Leo turned inside his man and provided Caca with the chance, but his low shot was well stopped by Joeys' keeper Jess Kedwell Van Strattan.

Two minutes later at the other end a long free-kick from Shane Cansdell-Sherriff saw Dylan MacAllister collide with Brazil's goalkeeper Rubinho.

This was the first of many incidents of theatrics performed by the Brazilians throughout the match, a feature of their play and an unfortunate element to the style of these types of teams.

Rubinho rolled around, imitating someone writhing in agony, before he was treated, and within a minute or two was up again playing as if nothing had happened.

Another example of the Brazilian lack of sportsmanship occurred midway through the first half when the Australians kicked the ball out so that Aaron Goulding could get some treatment. When the Brazilians threw the ball in, they refused to give it back to the Australians.

In the 29th minute Brazil generated their only remaining chance of the first half when Caca let fly from 20 metres out but send his shot wide.

Five minutes later a lovely one-touch move involving at least half a dozen Joeys saw the ball go to Louis Brain on the right, but his deflected shot from a tight angle was well held by Rubinho.

The first half closed scoreless, but with both teams on an even keel with each other. Chances in front of goal were few, yet both sides showed the potential to score.

Australia kicked off the second half running against a wind that was starting to pick up. The rain was also starting to become a factor making the surface more greasy.

The Joeys pushed hard in the early minutes and pinned their opponents deep in their own half. In the 52nd minute a long throw was headed on and fell to Scott McDonald but unfortunately he missed and put the ball harmlessly wide.

Then a minute later Adriano broke free on the left but he was too slow and Jade North robbed him of any chance of a shot.

This was one of the few good chances for Brazil as nearly all of their other shots at goal were from long range, which either went wide or were easily fielded by Kedwell-Van Strattan.

The first of these occurred in the 59th minute through Leo and he repeated the dose five minutes later.

Then in the 66th minute Eduardo was extremely lucky not to be sent off when he took down Jade North with a foul that would normally have generated dismissal as Eduardo had already received a caution in the first half.

And yet from the free-kick it was Eduardo who herded the ball away for a corner with two Australians nearby.

The Brazilians, at this stage, were rattled but they held firm and then slowly regained ascendancy for the remainder of normal time.

Eduardo, who was in the thick of things, sent a chance wide and in the 76th minute provided a corner for captain Walker to head wide at the far post.

Soon after Leonardo was guilty of lack of control on the greasy surface when he beat Mark Byrnes and the dangerous situation was diffused quickly.

Then in the 79th and 83rd minutes Kedwell-Van Strattan came into his own.

First Leonardo put substitute Souza through but the Joeys' keeper was first to the ball palming it away from danger, and

then another substitute, Wellington, read the play well in midfield breaking up an Australian attack and streaking towards goal. Again Souza was the target but the excellent through ball was again expertly gathered by the 'keeper.

Anderson and Eduardo finished off normal time with long shots at goal, the latter being the only one to force a save from the 'keeper.

Thus it was on to sudden-death extra-time, the second for both teams in this tournament.

The real question for Australia was their stamina.

Although Australia piled on the early pressure, it was Brazil who had all the shots in the first period, albeit from long distance.

A free-kick given away by Brain 35 metres out saw the ball rebound to Eduardo who sent his attempt just wide.

In the 101st minute Leo saw his long distance attempt well held and then one minute into time added on Leonardo shot wide.

Only thirty seconds into the second period and a near disaster for the Australians. With the ball on the side of the penalty box Kedwell-Van Strattan attempted to clear, but it rebounded off Adrian Madaschi and slowly trickled across the goal. Fortunately, the Australian 'keeper retrieved the ball before any harm was done.

Leo sent another long shot at the 'keeper in the 111th minute and in the next minute Walker broke down the right and sent a cross to Leonardo, but his left foot volley went high and wide.

From the ensuing goalkick Joe Di Iorio found himself behind the defence with the ball in front of him but his shot from an angle went across the goal.

Walker set up Eduardo for the final chance of the game but he sent his shot well over the bar.

Soon after the final whistle signaled the beginning of the penalty shoot out to determine the world champion.

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* Front page pic by kevin bridle

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JOEYS MAKE HISTORY

THE RETURN BY BEN CUBBY



The mighty Joeys returned to Australia on Sunday afternoon after losing the Final of the Under-17 World Cup to Brazil by the slimmest of margins.

A small but exuberant crowd of friends and family gathered at Sydney airport to welcome the team home, and to congratulate the boys on their stunning achievement.

Outgoing Australian Youth Coach Les Scheinflug summed up the Final by saying "we saw the true Aussie spirit. We never gave up.

"Before the game I told the boys I want nothing else but gold.

"This team were one thousand to one outsiders, and in the end Brazil won the World Cup with just one kick. It just didn't reflect the game.

"We came from the factory worker to the empress. We have made history. We came from nowhere and covered Australian soccer with glory.

"Australian soccer is not scared of the Brazilians. We are as strong as them, we are as skillful as them - we can beat them."

Joeys captain Mark Byrnes said that the team's run to the Final was not a complete surprise.

"If you'd asked me two months before the World Cup, I would have said it was unexpected.

"But during the South American tour, it was excellent how the team came together, and we thought we could do

well. I think we did Australia proud.

"The boss did a good job of keeping the scouts away from us. We were able to concentrate on the game.

"When we beat the USA, the media at home started to give us more attention. After that, we got about 150 e-mails and faxes a day, saying things like 'good luck' and 'do your best'. It was great to receive that support.

"At the moment I'm contracted to Parramatta Power. Afterwards, I'd like to go on and play professionally. It would be a dream to play overseas".

Aussie 'keeper Jess Kedwell-Van Stratten reflected upon his penalty shoot-

"My job is not finished, though. Sooner or later, I want gold".

Les Scheinflug

out heroics: "I don't think there was that much pressure on myself, there's really more on the taker - a save is a bonus.

"I put a little bit of blame on myself. I got a hand to four shots but only stopped one. I guess it just wasn't meant to be".

Scheinflug came in at that point and quipped: "I should have told him to grow his finger nails, and maybe we would have won".

Dashing striker Joey Di Iorio recalled the second half shot that came close to winning the World Cup. "It was a long ball out from the back. I ran on to it and slipped between two defenders.

"The Brazilian player pulled my shirt and prevented me from getting a view of goal, which made me shoot wide".

Di Iorio was forthright when questioned about pressures applied on Australians by European clubs, saying "I think every player wants to play for Australia. Country comes first".

Ice cool sweeper Adrian Madaschi said that he has benefited from playing in the reserves at Italian club Atalanta.

"The Italian league is strong. Playing against older players really helps your game.

"The standard of the World Cup is very high, though. Basically, we were very unlucky with the loss".

Scott McDonald, the youngest player in the squad, confirmed that overseas scouts were hovering around the Australian camp. "There were no direct approaches but I heard that a few were interested in me.

"I might go to the Australian Institute of Sport next year but the scholarship is a year long, so I'll have to think about it.

"I might be overseas before that. If I do, I'd like to maybe go to England. West Ham is a possibility - I definitely wouldn't be lonely there with so many other Aussies around".

Soccer Australia chairman Basil



Joeys captain Mark Byrnes: "It was great to receive that support from Australia."

Scarsella, who travelled with the Joeys, said he was immensely proud of the team.

"The World Cup started off with 150 teams, all trying to get into the finals. Australia finished second, losing out by one kick.

"These boys will go on and do well. This is the foundation of the next 10 years of Australian soccer".

Scheinflug said he is looking forward to his new role as technical director of Soccer Australia. "I'm really smiling and happy about it. I want to see a new generation of young Australian coaches come through.

"My job is not finished, though. Sooner or later, I want gold".

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JOEYS MAKE HISTORY

THE SEMI-FINAL



Joeys hold their nerve in shootout

By Nick Guoth

Australian soccer has finally come of age on the world stage as the Under 17 team, the Joeys, have qualified for the World Cup Final by defeating the USA on penalties.

An exhausted Australian coach Les Scheinflug was proud of his chargers.

"Winning a place in the Final is the greatest moment for me, the boys, Australia and all of Oceania".

Although there were memories of that fateful senior Socceroo day two years ago, as the Australians went two goals up only to see a spirited fightback by the Americans to bring it back to 2-2 by full-time.

With no score in sudden-death extra-time the game went to penalties to decide a winner. After eight shots each, Australia emerged the better by 7-6.

The Australians came out the more confident at the start and a well-worked corner kick gave them the lead after only two minutes and 20 seconds.

From the set piece Jade North headed the ball on at the near post. It rolled invitingly across the six-yard line and found Aaron Goulding who slotted the ball home.

Only a few minutes later the Americans had a chance to hit back. A through ball from the left by captain Kenny Cutler nearly found the head of Landon Donovan, but Cutler's pin-point accuracy was missing and Australian keeper Jess Kedwell-Van Strattan was not tested.

The US kept the pressure up with Cutler sending a shot over and a clearance under pressure by the Australian keeper nearly becoming an embarrassment, but fortunately Kyle Beckerman could not take advantage.

The game flowed from end to end with both teams having good opportunities to score.

A free kick just outside the box went to Shane Cansdell-Sherriff whose low hard shot went straight at D. J. Countess.

Just over the half-hour mark a Cansdell-Sherriff cross cleared the defence and found Louis Brain at the far post, but a great save from Countess saw no addition to the score.

Yet in the 35th minute Australia did double their tally. A delightful through ball by Lucas Pantelis from the half-way line found Scott McDonald.

McDonald checked back inside, rounding a defender and then from the edge of the box sent a low shot past Countess.

The USA hit back within a minute. Donovan received the ball on the outside of the box, showed his skills by rounding two defenders, and then finished it off placing his shot in the top left hand corner.

With the momentum having turned the Australian were on the back foot but they were able to hold out until the break. Meanwhile, as in the quarter-final, Jo Di Iorio was brought into the game after the break.

Although Australia had the first shot in anger, one fired over the bar by Cansdell-Sherriff, the Americans continued with their pressure and quest to tie up the score.

A US free-kick from the right found Oguchi Onyewu who headed on to Donovan.

His headed shot went straight at the Australian keeper.

Yet the lack of awareness in the air in defence was to see the Australians pay dearly. In the 52nd minute of play a corner from the left by Donovan found Onyewu to rise above the pack and glance his header home.

This set up a great finish to the game with both sides searching for the winning goal.

The first chance fell to the US when a defensive error saw the ball won by Jordan Cila who passed to Kyle Beckerman but his shot went wide.

Then it was time for some magic by Scott McDonald. He played a one-two with Jade North, made a run down the right before cutting into the box and send-

ing a shot that forced a good save from Countess.

With fifteen minutes left in the half Onyewu found himself free on the right. His low cross was met by Donovan at the near post with the Australian captain Mark Byrnes trailing. Kedwell-Van Strattan had positioned himself well to block the shot wide for a corner.

Then in the next minute DaMarcus Beasley took the ball into the box from the left. His low pile-driving shot, come cross, went across the goal with the US attackers desperately trying to get a touch.

Another Australian defensive error led to the ball falling to Abe Thompson, who had only come on four minutes earlier, but he was too slow to get his shot off and Adrian Madaschi pushed the ball away for a corner.

The last real chance of normal time fell to Australia. North ran with the ball into the box and slid it to Di Iorio but his volley went wide.

So came the end of normal time and the 2-2 scoreline had matched the only other time the two teams had met at this level, that being in Scotland in 1989.

The two periods of extra-time saw a pair of exhausted teams slogging it out, whilst watching the clock and making sure they didn't make an error.

In the 104th minute Australia had their chance. A cross from Cansdell-Sherriff was met well by Dylan Macallister, but not well enough as his header went agonisingly over.

Then it was the Americans sole chance for glory in the 110th minute when substitute Adolfo Gregorio slid into the box, but alike Thompson before, he was too slow allowing Madaschi to clear the danger.

The last incident of note in playing time surprised everyone when after what appeared to be an innocuous tackle by American Seth Trembley on Wayne Srhoj saw him sent off by Ecuadorian referee Byron Moreno Ruales.

That was the end of extra-time and now the unfortunate decider of penalties. Australia won the toss and was made to go first.

Although Kedwell-Van Strattan saved the second US kick, Countess countered stopping Australia's fourth and on it went to sudden-death.

All the way to the eighth kick where after Josh Kennedy calmly slotted home, US captain Kenny Cutler sent his attempt high and wide.

Celebrations began for the Australians whilst it was just sorrow for the Americans and consolation for Cutler.

Les Scheinflug stated "the team has come a long way and are getting stronger and stronger, but we will have to lift for the final."

"Credit the USA as they came back with strength."

When asked about the penalties, Scheinflug said his team had been practising for six weeks.

"We are all very much looking forward to the re-match with Brazil," said LG Joeys Coach Les Scheinflug after watching the second semi-final.

"Brazil has been the only team to beat us in this tournament, and we felt that we were unlucky not to at least draw, and possibly win against them the first time



Aussie keeper Jess Kedwell Van Strattan. A great stop that got us to the final.

around.

"It's bound to be a tremendous contest, and I'm sure I'll have no trouble psyching the players up, because we owe them something, and what better time to reclaim the debt than in the Final."

"But Brazil is Brazil, and while you can never underestimate them, anything is possible, and I believe that Australian heart will take over."

"I'm ecstatic for the kids who did a marvelous job today," said Scheinflug after the nail biting finish. "They kept their cool right through the penalties, which is something we've been practicing at training, because there was always the chance it would come to this."

"After we got the early two goals, I felt we became a little complacent and the USA came back and put us against the wall, but we still had the confidence that we could win it, either in the golden goal or by shoot out."

"It's nice to create history and that's the feeling in the dressing room at the moment."

"This is the first Australian soccer team to make the final of a World Cup, and it's great for everyone - for the boys, for me, for soccer in Australia, and for soccer in Oceania."

"We've reached something we've been striving toward for years, and it's certainly a nice way for me to leave one room and go to another."

"Now it's time to make sure we don't lose sight of the mission, the boys will celebrate tonight, and also watch the second semi final between Brazil and Ghana, but I'll make sure they're back concentrating on the Final tomorrow."

AUSTRALIA 7 defeated USA 6 on penalties

Full time score 2-2
Australia (A Goulding 3', S McDonald 25') USA (L Donovan 36', O Onyewu 52')

AUSTRALIA:
 Jess Vanstratten (gk); Shane Cansdell-Sherriff, Aaron Goulding, Adrian Madaschi, Mark Byrnes (capt), Jade North; Lucas Pantelis (Joe Di Iorio 46'), Louis Brain, Wayne Srhoj, Scott McDonald (Joshua Kennedy 69'), Dylan MacAllister

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Rush takes a proactive approach to his schools

Ten days may seem a short time in football, but when you're talking about the impact that Ian Rush, the former Liverpool goal scoring machine, has made since he arrived in Sydney, it should come as no surprise.

Rush has been busy with Olympic and his Finishing Schools.

Five years ago, Ian Rush approached Proactive Sports Management, a U.K. based company, with the idea of passing on his striking skills to future generations.

The Ian Rush Finishing Schools are now receiving wide acceptance in the U.K., Europe and U.S.A. largely due to the efforts of former Plymouth Argyle and Kansas City professional, Steve Hewitt, who is accompanying Rush on his whirlwind tour of Australia.

Roger Sleeman caught up with Steve Hewitt last week to compile this story about Proactive's involvement in U.K. and International football, and the growth of the Ian Rush Finishing Schools.

ROGER SLEEMAN: Can you outline the operations and activities of Proactive Sports in football?

STEVE HEWITT: The organisation was formed in 1987 by managing director Paul Stretford who recruited two other directors Kevin Moran and Jesper Olsen, the former Manchester United stars.

The company has three divisions, the main one being the professional football division which has an extensive client listing in the higher and lower divisions of the U.K., M.S.L. in the U.S.A., South America and Europe, where Soren Lerby, the former Bayern Munich manager controls operations.

The marketing and communication division looks after the commercial interests of players.

It works with organisations like Proctor and Gamble, Mars and Coca Cola and acts on behalf of players like Andy Cole and Ian Rush who hold endorsement contracts with Nike.

The grass roots football division is our platform for youth development where we're firmly established Internationally and now intending to expand to Australia in conjunction with some of the clubs in the N.S.L.

We also see Asia as a largely untapped market which we will pursue in the near future

R.S. Who are some the high profile players you're acting for and would you like to obtain the signature of a player of the calibre of Robbie Keane.

S.H. Amongst others, we have Peter Schmeichel, Paul Ince and as I mentioned, Andy Cole. As for Robbie Keane, he's been well looked after at Coventry City and as far as I'm aware is well managed.

Certainly his performances on the field would suggest he's content with his present situation and this is obviously a reflection of his state of mind off the field.

If a player isn't managed well off the field he naturally won't perform on it.

To be honest we'd love to have him on our books but if I can draw a parallel e.g. if we suggested to Andy Cole that he should move to Italy to make more money it mightn't be in the player's long term interests.

M a n c h e s t e r United is a highly professional club which looks after its players in every way so we would have to make sure the player was to benefit in a big way to make him leave United.

In other words, as the player's manager we have to guarantee that the player receives maximum return in his short playing career.

R.S. What are the main aims of the Ian Rush Finishing Schools and how do you propose to integrate them into the Australian scene?

S.H. The concept was evolved from the experience and ideas which Ian Rush employed as a striker throughout his career and the program is designed to improve attacking qualities at the recreational and elite level.

The program is a unique and innovative formula in that it is totally standardised so it doesn't matter if you're being coached in Sydney or Glasgow, the same curriculum will be followed.

Most importantly, Ian Rush has been fully involved with the design and application of the program, he's not just putting his name to it as the people who witnessed the coaching sessions last weekend would attest to.

Continued on page 23

FINAL CHANCE TO SEE RUSH

OLYMPIC V FORCE preview (Saturday night at Belmore)

By Aidan Ormond

That's right. This Saturday night at Belmore Sports Ground is the final of a two game 21-day visit by Ian Rush. The player, who has charmed the club and media with his humility and grace while here, is likely to face arguably Australia's best man-mover of the modern era: former Socceroo captain Alex Tobin.

The club is hoping for a significant increase on the 7,000 plus crowd for Rush's first game, when rain and TV coverage kept away fans in significant numbers.

To that end, Olympic is throwing everything into the promotion of this game, with pre-match entertainment and the chance for one lucky fan to win \$11,000.

It will not be shown live on TV.

Yet it is one the field where the most intriguing show will be played out. The Rush v Tobin duel should be fascinating.

Tobin has marked names as big as Batistuta, Yorke and Vieri in a career that has seen him an ever-present in the national team for most of this decade.

What better way to show the national coach that he is not over the hill than by marking Ian Rush out of the game.

Sweeping behind Tobin is likely to be the 'Ivanovic prodigy', the immaculate Angelo Costanzo with Olyroo Ivan Zelic - returning to the club he played for as a promising teenager four years ago - providing extra cover, and young Matthew Kemp the other defender.

New signing Duncan Ferguson - formerly of Glasgow Rangers - has settled in well to the Force midfield, according to coach Zoran Matic. See story on Ferguson on page 20.

However the contribution of Olympic's Pablo Cardozo is likely to be pivotal to the success of Ian Rush's goal tally.

Rush has been effusive in his praise of the silky smooth skills and vision of the Argentine-born striker - it was Cardozo's lovely through ball that presented Rush with his first real opportunity to score against Marconi in round 8.



Rush will be hoping that the Force defensive focus will be sufficiently preoccupied to give Cardozo enough room to create an opening, or better still score.

As Rush has emphasized on this visit, it is the Liverpool way that subsumes the individual within a team framework, so if Olympic wins and Rush does not score, the ex-Liverpool will still be happy.

Just behind this front two is another player whose vision and ability to put a man through will be key: 'Chee Chee' Mendez.

The little guy is revelling in the role as a provider to a frontline with so much clout and class.

Mendez is one of a small number of NSL players who have an 'instinctual' footballing brain, and the ability to put their foot on the ball and hold possession.

Add to this mix the spark and grit of Marcus Phillips, the former Oxford and Marconi man, and you have a well-balanced midfield.

Elsewhere on the park, Force Socceroos Mori and Vidmar love the big atmosphere and will cause the occasionally brittle Olympic defence some concerns.

So if you're younger and want to 'rage on' (as Olympic GM Frank Martin put it) after the game, or just want to see a true footballing legend, Belmore on Saturday night is the only place to be.

It's just a pity Ian Rush's visit was not a longer one.



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JOEYS MAKE HISTORY

THE FINAL BY NICK GUOTH IN AUCKLAND



Les Scheinflug: has gone out on a high.

Continued from page two

After Mark Byrnes missed the first penalty, Kedwell Van Stratten kept the Joeys in the game when he saved the second Brazil attempt from Marquinhos.

The next six were converted from both sides before Iain Fyfe became the unlucky player to see his attempt saved onto the post.

Wellington stepped up and finished the game with a well executed shot to claim victory for the defending champions.

The Australians were heartbroken.

In his last match in charge of the Australian team coach Les Scheinflug was very emotional but proud of the performance of his young team.

"It was a tremendous performance by both teams. There was to be a loser at the end and they were right in there until the last kick of the penalty shoot-out," Scheinflug stated after the game.

"I'm proud of the boys as you know they were 200-1 shots when they got here and I'm sure Brazil was lucky to get away with it."

"They're young lads. They've taken it the way they should. They don't like losing which is a good sign for the future for those boys. Many of these boys will be eligible for the Olympics in 2004."

"As you can see the foundation is very good for that team."

"Regards Byrnes' 'miss', the boy had done a marvelous job. A little bit of pressure... young Byrnes the captain, was outstanding throughout this tournament and also never missed a penalty but he unfortunately fluffed it."

"He feels lousy but I forgive this kid. He's done so much for this team. He's the leader of the team and has great future in the game."

"Regarding penalty kicks, I rated our chances very well because we practiced penalty shoot-outs, but you never know when the pressure is on against a big team."

"I would have like to have gone out with the boys winning a gold medal, I wasn't happy with silver, we wanted gold."

"The boys, I give them credit plus. They really showed the Australian spirit. They never gave up and when Brazil was knocking the ball around a little in the second half they came back."

"You've seen the game as well and I'm sure you're as proud of the boys as I am."

Asked about the end of an era, Scheinflug replied: "I'm moving from one

them for eight weeks. They're kids and I've tried to help them with everything. You go into the dressing room and see how they feel. They wanted it so badly they could smell they were good enough."

"I really sincerely believe they should hold their heads high."

"Brazil was a different style of football, but don't ever take for granted the Oceania spirit and the Australian guts. We played with everything we've got."

"I'm satisfied with the defence but for the boys I'm not satisfied because I thought they deserved a goal."

"Australia should be satisfied with those kids, because they gave their heart and soul and they played good soccer."

"No doubt about it, in the whole tournament Australia was one of the best teams in this tournament."

Australia's starting line-up for the final was:

(#1) Jess Van Stratten (gk); (#3) Shane Cansdell Sherriff, (#4) Aaron Goulding, (#5) Adrian Madaschi, (#6) Mark Byrnes (cpt), (#7) Jade North; (#10) Lucas Pantells, (#8) Louis Brain,



Joeys' defender Adrian Madaschi.

Harbour Stadium this afternoon," said Scheinflug.

"While they wouldn't let us train on the ground, we were OK to take a walk on the ground, and that's what I wanted the boys to do, to get out in the middle of the pitch take a good look around, and develop a feel for the place before tomorrow's match."

There was also an incident with a Brazilian player. The players was alleged to have spat at one Australian player before the group match.

Together with the niggling fouls and play acting for free-kicks, the Brazilians won no friends in this tournament, while the Aussies have shown a great deal of maturity.

The Young Socceroos of 2001 will want to exact revenge on Brazil should both nations meet up in two years' time.

And to conclude, it was a bleary-eyed Adrian Madaschi who gave us these words yesterday morning from his Sydney hotel prior to flying back to Italy to resume his career at Atalanta: "Thanks very much for all the support around Australia and to Inside Soccer. Congratulations to the whole team and Les Scheinflug, it was a great team effort."

"I think the Young Socceroos can go one step better in two years time. Once again thank you to everyone around Australia."

And on that note, a very tired young Aussie went back to bed!

"Australia should be satisfied with those kids, because they gave their heart and soul and they played good soccer. No doubt about it, in the whole tournament. Australia was one of the best teams in this tournament."

Les Scheinflug

comer to another so I'm happy to still be supporting soccer in Australia and Oceania.

"I'm more than happy to help youngsters in both Oceania and Australia. There's a big future ahead."

"I really wanted it so bad for these kids," Scheinflug responded when asked about his animated nature during the game.

"I know the kids as I've been with

(#16) Wayne Srhoj; (#11) Scott McDonald, (#17) Dylan MacAllister (above).

Meantime Australia's training schedule was slightly disrupted after a traffic accident caused havoc on Auckland's roads the day before the big final.

"We had a good training session this morning, and were due to go to North



JOEYS MAKE HISTORY

THE KIWI PERSPECTIVE with assistance from Grant Stantjall

The tournament, together with the arrival of the Kingz, has put soccer firmly on the map, even if Saturday's World Cup final coincided with an election that saw a change of government in New Zealand for the first time in nine years.

Here is some of what the Sunday Star Times' Geoff Young has been reporting on during the tournament.

ALL-WHITES COACH SUPPORTS JOEYS' SUCCESS

All Whites coach Ken Dugdale smiled with satisfaction when Australia eclipsed the United States in the first of the semifinals in the Fifa under-17 world championship.

It wasn't that he had become a latter-day Ocker-phile, but he said Australia's progression to yesterday's final was "an

immense achievement for soccer in the Oceania region".

The championship has been a godsend. "For New Zealand there is an incredible heightened awareness of the game, not only from soccer people, but from those not normally interested," he said.

"The crowds have been fantastic and they compared favourably with the under-20 tournament in a soccer country like Nigeria earlier this year."

As national coach, Dugdale was obviously pleased with the showing of the New Zealand team, which finished 11th out of the 16-nation championship. But he did sound a note of warning.

"It was obvious we were a little short in technique, guile and improvisation," he said. "People would be right to say we are not a Brazil or a Ghana but we are very much like the United States, and they have

a very good side".

"Their technique was as good as any other team here. If American can get to this level, then we certainly can."

Dugdale was enthused by the showing of Kiwi players Allan Pearce, David Mulligan, Steve Turner, David Rayner, Jeremy Christie and Sacha Nathu. "They excite me because they have got a great opportunity to get experience overseas and they'll be in the frame for the New Zealand under-20's squad that begins the qualifying phase for the next world championship in 2001."

Dugdale knew Pearce from his time as coach of the Porirua club Western Suburbs.

It's not often a New Zealand crowd is heard baying for an Australian success, but that was the bizarre case in the final of the Fifa U-17 World Championship at

Albany. Brazil, the favourites on paper at least, held its nerve better at the death to take the title 8-7 on penalties after 90 minutes and extra time failed to produce a goal.

But the 22,100 crowd decided to back the team from within New Zealand's Oceania region and its favouritism was reinforced as early as the second minute when Eduardo managed to con the referee into awarding a free kick and turned on the theatrics.

Inside Soccer believes that a number of Kiwi players are also being targeted by Euro scouts that converged on the tournament.



GREG BLAKE
C7 SOCCER COMMENTATOR



Sensational. If all is right in the world that should be all I need say about those wonderful Joeys.

Because all being right in the world these outstanding Australian athletes should be THE sporting headline around the country this week.

They should dominate the sports bulletins. Praise should be heaped on them in bucket loads.

The nation's sport-obsessed media should laud them just as they do the Wallabies, the Aussie test cricket team, the Davis Cup boys and...well, the list goes on.

Shame is, I don't believe that will happen.

Despite taking Australia deeper into a soccer world championship than any senior or junior Aussie team before them - and bloody near knocked off Brazil, if you don't mind - I fear the deeds of these kids will largely be ignored.

Hopefully there will be civic receptions, ticker-tape parades and special appearances by the Joeys and dear old Les Scheinflug.

And if we're fair dinkum about the game here Soccer Australia should ensure at least some pressure is applied to the relevant authorities to ensure their unforgettable effort is celebrated.

In the meantime - and I'm sure I speak for everyone who loves the game - you bloody ripper boys.

You made us proud. You were sensational.

I am absolutely certain that every fan of the game in this country at some time would have experienced a reality check similar to the one I did on 'Super Saturday' last weekend, as the Joeys prepared to fight Brazil for the under-17 world championship.

Riding high on the prospect of a memorable day for the Aussies I took a stroll to the local TAB to catch up with a few mates - whom I now believe to be of particularly questionable breeding - and waste a few shiny pennies.

But just when I thought nothing else mattered, it became apparent that not one other person had any clue as to the identity of said Joeys, nor the fact they were hours from a date with destiny. And most of these blokes are your bona fide TV sports nuts.

It's simply not good enough.

It might be a reflection of the people I associate with, but sadly I have found them to be an accurate guide to the opinions of the 'general public'.

No finger pointing here, because I don't have the answers myself.

But it is a damning condemnation of local soccer's legendary inability to promote the product when these fabulous young men play in arguably one of the most important games in Australian soccer's history and the bulk of the nation's sports fans couldn't give a hoot.

Quick plug to the ABC boys, who did a tremendous job of covering the final from New Zealand but I'll be very curious to know just how many people watched the telecast.

National Director of Referees, Gary Power, is a good bloke and he does a pretty tough job with limited resources.

That said, when is the message going to get through that the lack of consistency and an apparent propensity for booking anything that's not nailed down by our NSL officials are issues which need to be addressed immediately.

In two decades of covering the game I have no doubt that the rapport between players and referees is at an all-time low.

And respect for the referees' decision-making abilities has diminished significantly.

That's not healthy for the sport.

This isn't your general garden variety type topical whinge about match officials, which is common in all sports world-wide.

This is a massive groundswell of opinion against the referees and we really do not need to divide the game into two warring factions, particularly when players and officials are inevitably so reliant on each other in the long run.

I won't mention the ref's name so as not to be seen to single any out, but more than a few knowledgeable footy people were totally perplexed (read furious) about the outcome of last Friday night's Parramatta - Sydney United game.

This was not, no way, not ever an eight-bookings and one send-off game.

I'm researching this week's feature story on Power's Peter Bennett (see elsewhere in today's 'Inside Soccer'), it was interesting to note the result of an inadvertent poll of several NSL coaches and players on which players are generally regarded as the toughest or most annoying to play against.

Several other names scored a mention but only five were regarded as stand-outs; Bennett, Power teammate Steve Berry, South Melbourne's David Clarkson, Marconi's Darren McDonald and Carlton's evergreen wall of doom, Andrew Marth.

And has he has been for the past five or six years 'Stabber' is still acknowledged by his peers to be the stand-out tough player in the NSL.

"He can actually be quite scary," was the quote from one opposition player.

If I'm pushed on the (non) issue of my favorite NSL teams, I generally opt for Wollongong, Newcastle and Gippsland, merely because all three 'regional' clubs usually have to work twice as hard as their city cousins to lure players, draw fans or entice sponsors.

So it was nice to see a bit of hard yakka pay off for Wollongong this past week with their announcement of two new major sponsorships which I understand could net the Wolves a six-figure sum over the next 12 months.

With the team contending again and the crowds very healthy at Brandon Park the future for Wollongong in the NSL looks assured.

Matildas' sexy new calendar now on sale

By Aidan Ormond

As if the Joeys' success in New Zealand wasn't enough excitement, today in Sydney the Matildas launch their very first nude calendar. The calendar has already caused a storm in the media with Matilda Amy Taylor featuring on the launch invite in a seductive and sexy pose (pictured).

And if the calendar was supposed to boost interest in our national women's team, then already it has been a huge success.

There has been wide mainstream media coverage of our national team's venture, and the timing could not be better.

In early January there is a four-team international tournament - that also stars the world champions the USA - kicking off on January 7 at North Sydney Oval before a Northern Spirit game.

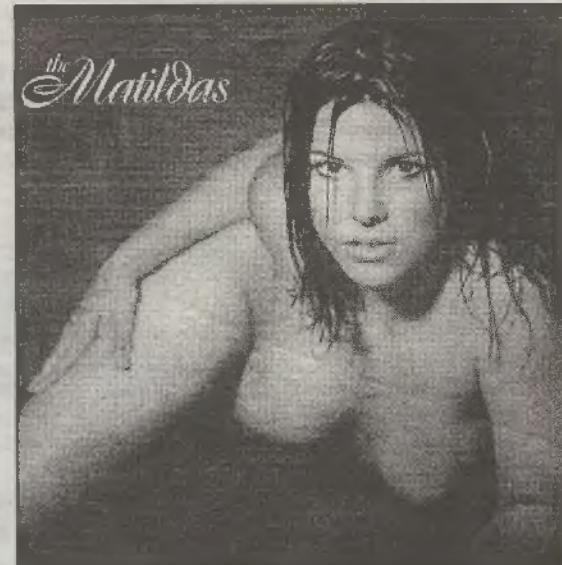
The original 15,000 print run of the calendar was quickly doubled on the eve of the launch as expectations of a massive seller in the lead-up to Christmas heightened.

AWSA officials were inundated with phone calls and media inquiries last week as the invites reached various parts of the media (Inside Soccer tried ringing the AWSA number eight times before we got through last week.)

"The invitation has sparked an unbelievable reaction. We are all looking at each other saying 'how has this happened?' Maybe it's hit a nerve, maybe good timing, who knows. The thing about the calendar is that it's a high-risk thing because other sports have done it... we needed it to be unique and I think that is what we have achieved," said AWSA chief executive Warren Fisher.

When the idea was first floated 24 out of the 25 players training in Canberra agreed to do the calendar.

The family and friends of players were then consulted, which whittled it down to the



12 that feature from our national team currently in training for the Olympics.

"We did not want to shoot it in a setting," said Fisher. "We shot on a black canvas backdrop, with no props, no clothes, just really focusing on the individual."

"Each player's personality comes out in the shots. The shot of Amy Taylor on the invite reflects her extroverted personality... each player has their own style though."

According to Fisher publicity guru Max Markson has predicted this calendar - published by the same people who publish Soccer Australia magazine - will be one of the highest sellers of its kind, following on from Jane Fleming's Golden Girls calendar some years ago.

Inside Soccer will be at the launch today (it's a tough life but someone has to do it!) and we will have the full story next week.

But in all seriousness, the players deserve credit for having the guts to do this for their sport. Think about it, would you, dear reader, have the guts to get your kit off for a national, and international, audience? Hopefully the Matildas' on-field performances in the upcoming tournament will give them as much publicity as this calendar.

Wolves sign sponsors



By Aidan Ormond

These are heady days for Wollongong Wolves. On the park the side is sitting in the top six, with their free-flowing style yielding 17 goals prior to last weekend's game at Marconi. And off the park two existing sponsors have upgraded their commitments to jointly form as the club's main shirt sponsors.

In what may be a first for an Australian club, an internet site has become a major club backer. KIDZ.net is a worldwide operation that provides a safe internet system containing thousands of educational and entertainment sites for children aged between 4-16.

The second Wolves sponsor is Uhanderra Hardware Man, a local business established in 1953.

To accommodate both sponsors, Wolves will display Uhanderra Hardware Man on their red home jerseys, while KIDZ.net will be on the white away shirt.

Existing sponsor BHP will be still be involved with Wollongong Wolves, but due to a downsizing in local operations will not be the Wolves' main sponsor.

Wolves' general manager Graeme Haney was naturally delighted with the two

new major sponsors when he spoke to Inside Soccer.

"It's very much a time for us to really establish ourselves," he said. "We believe the league next year will really take off with its rationalisation and so we have to position ourselves to take advantage of that, as opposed to being left behind."

The merchandising of the new 'Man Utd' style club kit has also been a huge success, with the Wolves' Brandon Park outlet recording very brisk sales of the strip.

The kit is also available in Wollongong sport stores.

Haney added that the signings of both striker Stuart Young and defender David Cervinski has made the side much stronger and has meant established stars are now no certainty to play.

"Depth of a squad is crucial to success, especially now with the season much longer. I think competition within the squad can only be a good thing."

Wollongong is also looking forward to the battle of the Cervinski brothers in this weekend's home game against Knights.

Wolves' defender David Cervinski won two championships with Knights, and he should be marking little brother Adrian, himself a one-time Wolves player.

PETER BENNETT

THE POWERFUL TRUE BLUE FIGHTER

By Greg Blake

When analysed closely, sometimes the course of an entire season can be traced to specific pivotal events. The new signing; that special goal; a crucial injury; an inspirational individual effort.

It could be anything.

And it isn't always the champions who write the scripts.

Without wishing to over-dramatise what will inevitably be remembered as a mere blip on the regular season map - that's if it is recalled at all - Parramatta's oft-unsung Peter Bennett produced what appeared to be just such a pendulum push on a balmy Friday night in Melbourne some eleven days ago.

Should Parramatta Power go on to significant success in 1999/2000 it may very well look back on that 3-1 triumph at Carlton - or, more specifically, Bennett's integral role in the victory - as the season's springboard.

"There's no doubt that he was the guy who turned the game," conceded one Carlton player of Bennett's efforts on the night.

The newest Sydney club had ambled out of the blocks at the start of the season and despite a palpable but modest improvement in form into November Parramatta had still been held at home by undermanned Gippsland and beaten 3-1

Bennett lost the best part of five of his prime footballing years to Crohn's Disease, a medical condition which to this day is still being researched to establish both cause and cure.

at Brisbane before an overdue maiden home win over Perth Glory.

The real test now was measuring themselves on the road against undefeated Carlton in round eight, when victory would ensure a handy psychological boost and provide the momentum for road games to come.

Defeat would sit Power back on their fully professional backsides and put an awkward two-game break between themselves and the top six.

And Parramatta were with an ace of being flogged that night as Carlton rolled down Olympic Park in waves, threatening to pound Bennett's team into submission long before half time.

However for as long as Carlton failed to convert the match was alive.

But someone had to turn the tide.

Thus Bennett stepped up to tip the scales.

"I was watching him really starting to niggle our blokes...he was really starting to upset one or two of them," recalled the Carlton player.

"You could see what was happening but we just couldn't seem to do anything to stop it."

With little more than some fierce physical work and aggressive harassing of the likes of John Markovski, Lubo Lapsansky and Andrew Marth - and that takes some courage - Carlton ever-so-briefly lost focus.

Bennett's work in the trenches, having nudged the door, ajar the fly-boys took

over, with Joel Griffiths and John Gibson scoring within four minutes of each other on the cusp of half time against a usually steely Carlton defence, which had conceded a mere three goals in its previous 670 minutes of football.

When a clearly rattled Lapsansky was sent-off within seconds of Gibson's strike it was already game over and Bennett could have sat out the second half, his unheralded MVP Honours on the evening already guaranteed.

"We never really got control of the game," assessed teammate Danny Townsend, who came off the bench to ice the win with Power's third goal.

"To do that someone had to get stuck in and 'Benno' was the one to put his hand up."

"He's a pretty good bloke to have on your team."

Opposition coach, Stuart Munro, was the first to admit Bennett's performance swung the game as much as any other factor.

"That's his game - he likes to get stuck in," said Munro, who was a teammate of Bennett's at Sydney United back in 1997/98.

"We were very aware of the threat and I warned the players about him but you have to give him credit, don't you?"

"I mean he took it on himself to drag Parramatta Power back into the game and he did just that."

"Mind you, he's not just a physical player. He has great ability as well."

"You would want him in any team."

As for Bennett himself it was shrug of the shoulders territory after the type of game you suspect he'd be happy to play his part in every

weekend.

"When you're in a bit of a rut like that you think that if you put your body on the line it might lift the players a bit," he explained after the game.

"You sense the (opposition) players who might lose it a bit."

"I'm a hothead myself so you sort of know that if you do get stuck in they'll have a bit of a whinge."

It's not the first or last time the nuggety utility will instigate a Power surge, be it through infuriating opponents, putting his body on the line or through sheer footballing ability.

And he does have that; witness his round one strike against Marconi which is destined to be shown on the highlight reels for years to come.

Indeed his senior coach at both Sydney United and now Power, David Mitchell, has come to rely on Bennett as a go-to player when his team is under fire.

Mitchell is evasive when it comes to addressing Bennett's relentless 'in your face' approach in the hope of avoiding unwanted attention from over-zealous NSL match officials.

"Yes, Peter's a bit fiery but that's because he's a great competitor and he wants to win," enthuses Mitchell.

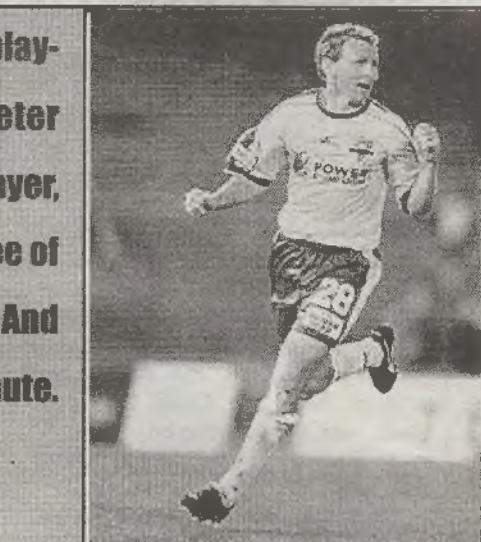
"But he is also a very good player and a great ambassador for his club."

"Of course you need tough players, every team has them."

"But Peter is much more than that and I rate him very highly."

Few national soccer league players have a story like Peter Bennett's. For the Power player, just being a full-time employee of a football club is a blessing. And he is going to enjoy every minute.

GREG BLAKE met him.



"He's an unbelievable character and a great boy."

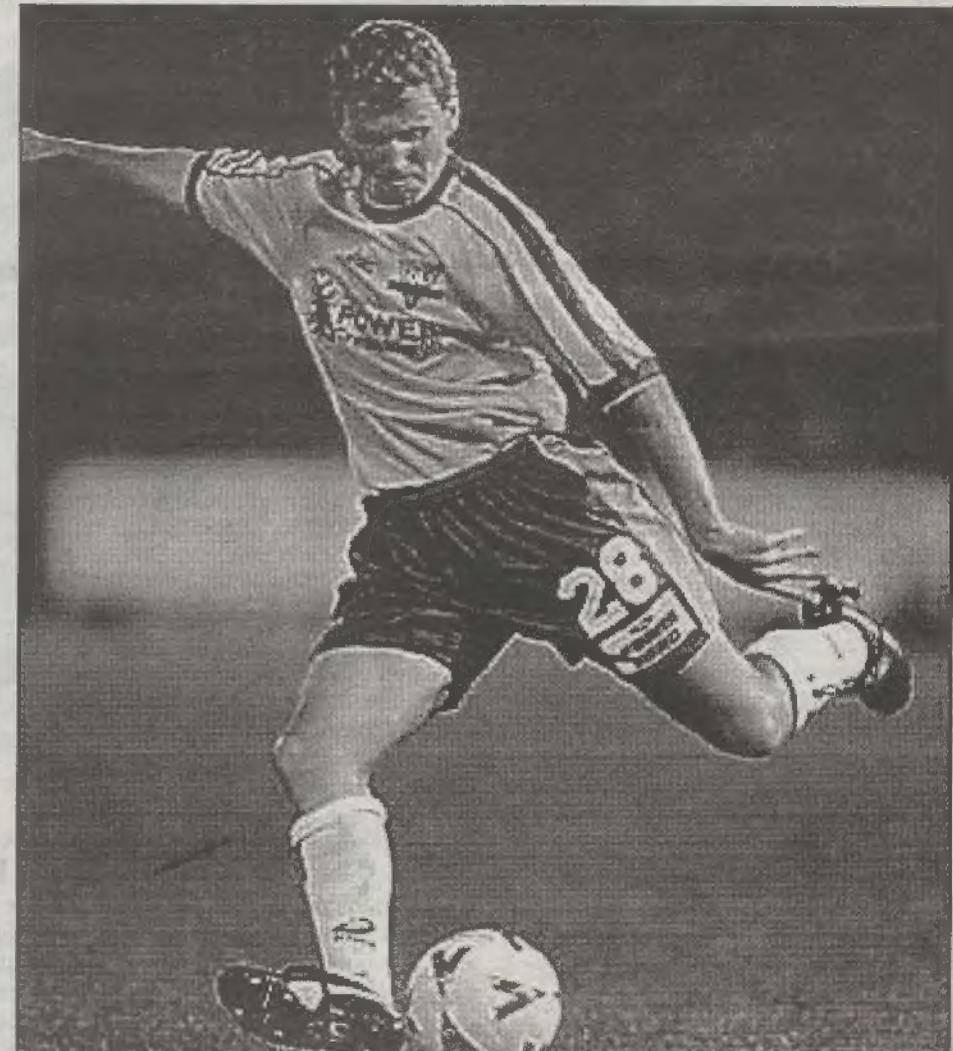
"He could have made it overseas, no doubt."

What Mitchell hints at but doesn't mention openly is the admiration both he and probably most of Bennett's playing peers have for him and the inspiration

both cause and cure.

As Bennett's Aussie teammates prepared to go for gold at the 1992 Barcelona Olympiad he was bed-ridden, suffering symptoms such as dramatic weight loss, lethargy, severe stomach cramps and diarrhoea.

Bennett doesn't appear to dwell too



Peter Bennett: "He could have made it overseas," says his coach Dave Mitchell.

they draw from his story.

On the advice of assistant coach Laurie McKenna, who had played alongside the then up-and-comer at Apia high a decade ago, it was Mitchell who resurrected Bennett's NSL career when any hands at all were needed on deck at Sydney United in 1997/98.

Few knew that the surprise 27-year-old recruit who had once played under-age and Olyroo in the green and gold hadn't merely lost his football touch, he'd come perilously close to losing his life.

Bennett lost the best part of five of his prime footballing years to Crohn's Disease, a medical condition which to this day is still being researched to establish

much on those lost years.

"Those years of 1992 and 1993 were probably the worst," he reflected.

"Initially I had this infection but it got so bad that every step was agony and I certainly didn't think I would ever even be able to work again, let alone play football."

"There weren't many options and they tried me on several antibiotics and one of them seemed to help."

CONTINUED PAGE 23



Craig Johnston with The Four Diegos



Diegos: "The Harry Kewell no-show for the Brazilian series has prompted a huge backlash from Soccer Australia, the Aussie media and the public in general."

1974 Socceroo, Ray Richards, actually said that 'Australians should forget about him and that he can go and play for Madagascar for all he cared'.

Has this whole saga prompted a sense of déjà vu for you?"

Johnston: "It has a little bit, but the situation for me happened 20 years ago and it was a vastly different thing. If I had gone missing from Liverpool for a week it would have taken me six to eight months to get back into the team."

Harry Kewell is probably the finest young footballer in Britain at the moment and could demand his first team place in any team in the country if not Europe. So it's different in a lot of ways."

The other issue was that Harry was actually injured. The media reacted by labeling Leeds United as parasites. But in actual fact, the club believed that after the Wimbledon game Harry had left to go to Australia, and so it was Harry's decision not to travel because of the injury.

So I think there has been a bit of an over reaction.

People should remember that Harry is Australia's finest player and

each others throats."

Diegos: "Australia's 'Love Affair' with Leeds United has been a lot more bitter than sweet. Since they declared that they were only interested in signing young Australians who were prepared not to play for their country, in addition to their reluctance to release Harry previously, we all knew that the saga was going to turn ugly."

To what extent do you think they are

People should remember that Harry is Australia's finest player and we shouldn't be placing him in situations where he is playing when he is injured.

Craig Johnston on Harry Kewell

to blame for the current state of affairs and is it unreasonable to expect that Leeds has some responsibility to Aussie soccer?"

Johnston: "I don't believe Leeds are to blame. They released Harry and he made the decision based on his injury status. There is a club versus country issue with every country in Europe and basically every club in Europe, so this is not specifically an Australian problem. It happens all of the time."

The important thing is the long-term future of the game and qualification for the big tournaments. This game with Brazil is a big but people should understand that it's not World Cup qualification so again, I don't think we should be slamming players and shooting from the hip blaming clubs.

The problem that Australia has got and will always have is its geographic isolation. What I feel good about with the World Cup coming to Asia in 2002 is that teams will be heading this way to acclimatize for Japan and Korea.

So we will see a number of quality teams coming to Australia."

Diegos: "Harry talked about the difficulty of making his decision not to come and the fact that he has to live and work with Leeds everyday of his life, so going against his manager's wishes was not an option for him. Can you relate to his dilemma?"

Johnston: "I don't think people understand the pressure of being a professional footballer at the very top of the Premier League. He is perhaps one of the finest footballers in Britain at this moment. These people are highly tuned athletes and if they miss a half hour training or physio session and they're two percent off their best, it can affect their weekend's performance."

When you're playing two games a week and have just come off 75 consecutive league games, there are all sorts of injuries you have to cope with. I don't think people understand the ferocity and competition that's required and the total focus and concentration that's needed to function at the top in Britain."

The part I get frustrated with most is that people think it's just as easy as jumping on plane. If you for example, flew over to England, got off a plane and played two games of football and then hopped back on and came back,

you would find that it knocks your body around."

Diegos: "Soccer Australia have gone for a home grown coach, Frank Farina to lead the Socceroos to the next World Cup. Is the country ready for such a move?"

Johnston: "Frank Farina has a tremendous amount of respect from Australian soccer players but as you would know you can't please everyone all of the time. Even when Venables was coach, people were saying that we should have a home grown coach and why do we need outside influences. I don't think you can win."

All of the players and the country learned from the Venables experience, so maybe Frank is the right man for the job. I don't know that I can think of too many better."

Diegos: "With the exceptional world class talent in the Socceroos at present and the incredible latent support for the game in Australia, it seems the only piece of the jigsaw left is to make and do well in a World Cup."

Given the critical nature of preparation and continuity and the problems associated with getting our team together, how does Frank Farina best prepare the team?"

Johnston: "Perhaps prepare the side in Europe, just as the Brazilian team are doing. This was part of Venables strategy. It's a nice mix to get a bit of respect both overseas and here in Australia. But the biggest single issue I think Frank has to deal with is getting the critical mass of players out to Australia."

Diegos: "Your book 'Walk Alone' depicted your turbulent life as a soccer star.

What's on the agenda for you at present and is there any chance that volume two - 'Walk Alone with the Diegos Harassing you all the Way', will hit the book stores soon?"

Johnston: "The Diegos are the only blokes to harass me. Nobody else cares any more. It's only when a soccer star goes wayward that people bother to phone me up."

But to answer your question, I'm working on the grass roots in kids' coaching and development in Europe with the governing bodies. The same stuff I was doing with the Australian Soccer Federation before I returned



Craig Johnston in the 1984 Milk Cup Final against Everton.

overseas:

My end goal is to be the coach of the Byron Bay under-12 team, which will be my final resting-place. That's where I started my career and that's where I would like to finish it. I really have a vested interest in the quality of the game, its players and the media.

I think that Australian soccer is really on track. Maybe the pieces of the jigsaw aren't quite in place yet but I'm sure that in the future we will strike the winning formula and keep the public, the players, the media and the promoters happy."

Diegos: "Thanks Craig. Sunny Byron Bay sounds good! You know we will need to spend some quality, all expenses paid time with you to finish that book. Think about it. Adios Amigo!"

Johnston: "Thanks Diegos. There's a terrific camping ground about 20 kms from where I intend to live ... hope you can make it. Adios Amigos!"



Johnston with Ian Rush after yet another FA Cup triumph. Rush is currently playing in Australia.

we shouldn't be placing him in situations where he is playing when he is injured.

All we need to do is to look at what is ahead on the Australian soccer calendar and remember that he will be required to play a big role in those fixtures. We shouldn't be pressing the issue with young Harry if we want him to play a part in our World Cup preparations.

So yes, there has been a touch of déjà vu for me. I think that if I were involved in the scenario I would offer an olive branch to Leeds and ask them to bring their side down to Australia. Perhaps then we will find the next two or three Harry Kewells, and have a lasting relationship rather than being at

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NSL round nine

'The round South was beaten 5-1'



TEAM OF THE WEEK:
Brisbane Strikers, who showed
they are 'the real deal' by thrashing South

NSL TOP SCORERS: PAUL FOSTER (STRIKERS) 9 GOALS

ZELJKO BABIC (Stallions) 5

CON BOUTSIANIS (Glory) 5

JOEL GRIFFITHS (Power) 5

DANIEL WATKINS (Cosmos) 5

ALEX MOREIRA (Carlton) 5

IVAN ERGIC (Glory) 5

Cumulative attendances after round nine

99/00: 415,568

98/99: 394,312

Can Paul Foster of Brisbane Strikers break the record of the highest number of goals in the NSL for one season? With an extended season he has every chance of doing this if he keeps up his current purple patch. Paul Foster, we salute you and the Brisbane Strikers.



Strikers' Paul Foster: hat-trick man for Brissy.

	(Overall)						(Home)						(Away)					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A
BRISBANE STRIKERS	9	6	3	0	17	7	21	10	3	2	0	13	6	3	1	0	4	1
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	9	5	2	2	14	8	17	6	1	2	1	6	6	4	0	1	8	2
MARCONI STALLIONS	9	5	2	2	14	13	17	1	3	0	1	4	4	2	2	1	10	9
PERTH GLORY	9	4	3	2	20	12	15	8	2	2	1	14	8	2	2	1	6	4
CARLTON	9	4	3	2	16	10	15	6	2	1	1	6	5	2	2	1	10	5
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	9	4	3	2	17	14	15	3	3	0	1	7	5	1	3	1	10	9
Parramatta Power	9	3	3	3	15	14	12	1	2	3	1	10	8	1	0	2	5	6
Canberra Cosmos	9	3	2	4	13	11	11	2	2	1	3	8	5	1	1	1	5	6
South Melbourne	9	3	2	4	13	13	11	0	3	1	0	10	2	0	1	4	3	11
Football Kingz	9	3	2	4	14	18	11	-4	1	1	2	6	10	2	1	2	8	8
Newcastle Breakers	9	2	4	3	12	14	10	-2	0	3	1	6	7	2	1	2	6	7
Gippsland Falcons	9	2	3	4	6	10	9	-4	2	1	2	4	3	0	2	2	2	7
Melbourne Knights	9	3	0	6	9	18	9	-9	3	0	2	6	5	0	0	4	3	13
Sydney United	9	2	3	4	6	11	9	-5	2	1	2	4	5	0	2	2	2	6
Adelaide Force	9	1	4	4	7	12	7	-5	1	2	1	5	5	0	2	3	2	7
Northern Spirit	9	2	1	6	7	15	7	-8	1	0	2	3	5	1	1	4	4	10

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Round ten preview

Before looking at this weekend's round ten, a total of nine players were red-carded in round nine, with a further 38 yellow-carded. If this appears excessive - in relation to on-field behaviour - then you're not the only one looking at these figures in mild disbelief.

Certainly the talk at the Power v Sydney Utd derby (which thankfully had no crowd problems, despite the Daily Telegraph whipping up some hysterical headlines in the game's lead-up) was of a game that was not overly dirty or malicious. Referee Eddie Lennie, one of our better whistlemen, handed out eight yellows and a red. It simply did not reflect the game's nature.

Were the other games perceived similarly? If there is a majority saying yes, then there is clearly some sort of communication problem. Either the players are taking liberties or the refs are going over the top in their interpretations.

It's a problem for the NSL. Looking ahead to this weekend, and on Friday the big game is at North Sydney, with rivals Marconi Stallions (third from top) playing Spirit, currently in the incredible position of being bottom.

Sadly, the lack of imagination in Spirit's lead-up work is showing no signs of improving, with IS reporter in Gippsland, Lucio Viggiano writing that '... the Northern Spirit defenders could do little more than pump the ball long in the hope of catching the Falcons on the break' in their encounter last weekend.

If this is the case again this Friday, the big Marconi defence will have no problem soaking up the Spirit attacking forays.

Having said that, the memories of last season's 4-0 drub-

bing of Marconi will be motivation enough for the league's underachievers.

In New Zealand, the Kingz will be hoping for a flow-on crowd from the World Cup U/17 when they host Gippsland Falcons. In one of the longer journeys for the regional Victorian side, they will come up against former player Marcus Stergiopoulos (not in goal one presumes!), although another former Falcon, Lev Osman, will be suspended for this game.

The Kingz are quite unpredictable, having won away from home in difficult matches, but losing a number of home games. They will expect to win this game, especially as new Gippsland striker Ivan Mandic will be suspended.

At Breakers stadium the return of former coach, Strikers' John Kosmina, sees his side in the middle of the most unbelievable run. Unbeaten after nine games, with the league's most prolific striker Paul Foster fresh from a hat-trick against Oceania champions South Melbourne.

With the Breakers earning a crucial away win last Friday night this is their biggest test in their quest to climb back into top six contention. Expect a 5,000 plus crowd in Newcastle for this one, and keep an eye out for Glenn Moore. The man is, this young Breaker has a big future.

And in Melbourne the shell-shocked South Melbourne hosts Parra Power. Nothing less than a win will satiate South's demanding coach Postecoglou and their fans. Last time Power visited the Southern capital they destroyed top six contender Carlton.

However this time there is no Joel Griffiths to give Power that added spark upfront. They will hope Olyroo Mile Sterjovski can fill the breach after coming on a sub last week.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK:

"We have to get clearance from the AIS first up, then I'll probably give them a week off because three months in camp with Les Scheinflug is punishment enough for anybody"

Strikers coach John Koemina on the imminent return of his Joeys Shroj and North.

"Yeah, I'd do it. If it meant bringing more fans in then sure."

Archie Thompson responding to the Matildas' nude calendar. See Archie's interview next week.

"It must be the water"

Force coach Zoran Matic on why players like Adelaide.

"Shit, he can play"

David Mitchell the first time he saw Peter Bennett.

"To pull the green and gold on you just get goose bumps up and down your spine and to make the World Cup final and just to be wearing the green and gold is brilliant," he said.

Joeys' Mark Bynes to AAP's Paul Miller.

Griffiths injury sours Power's local derby



PARRAMATTA POWER 1

Berry 62

SYDNEY UNITED 1

Pondeljak 66

Friday night at Parramatta Stadium, Sydney. Crowd: 6,015

By Paul Goodwin

A tense and scrappy derby, in front of an un-derby-like crowd at Parramatta Stadium on Friday night, produced a 1-1 draw between home side Power and their Edensor Park rivals Sydney United.

It was always going to be a game in which neither side would want to give much away, but having taken a belated lead Parramatta showed once again their inability to defend it when they lost possession close to their own goal and allowed the visitors in, almost immediately, for an equaliser.

Yellow cards sprang thick and fast from referee Eddie Lennie's right front pocket as the game was punctuated by a series of strong challenges in blustery and cool conditions. In true derby tradition both sides were physically committed, but the crowd failed to engage themselves with quite the same enthusiasm.

Having issued so many cautions early on Lennie was always odds-on to single out the same man twice for a bookable offence. That is how it transpired - United defender Vince Savoca was the unlucky one to get his marching orders towards the end, for a high challenge on Power's energetic striker Joel Griffiths.

Griffiths finished up with a shoulder injury, which is likely to keep him out of the team for at least a couple of matches, but with his loss from this game and Power's attacking options effectively reduced, it looked more likely that the ten men from Sydney United would be the ones to go on and win the game.

Parramatta weren't the only ones to suffer from the loss of influential players during this game. While they also had to replace Joe Vrkic, who was injured in a heading duel with Ray Younis, their opponents were without influential playmaker Aytec Genc for the last half hour as he succumbed to a recurrence of an injury he has been carrying for most of this season.

Genc had played a pivotal role in the first half in ensuring that United were always in the game, but when he left the field his team switched to a more direct approach, which, ironically, paid dividends.

Both Genc and Pondeljak (pictured) were very creative in the early period of the game.

Genc fed Pondeljak with a diagonal pass from the right and the latter shot low and just wide from close range in the 13th. Pondeljak himself got away down the left and sent an overhead kick goalwards in the 21st which Andrew Crews did well to collect.

Matthew Zec managed to get clear of his marker in the 29th but headed a high cross from Kain Rastall on the right inches over the bar.

Nick Bosevski had to leave the field less than half an hour in and was replaced by Mario Jermen who proceeded to combine well with Zec and set up a chance in the 42nd which Crews took well at the base of the post and Zec returned the favour with a ball from wide and deep on the right that showed excellent vision. Jermen's fiercely struck volley was palmed away brilliantly by Crews with just a minute of first half time remaining.

Parramatta had chances of their own, but their superior territorial advantage did not result in many more scoring opportunities than their opponents on this occasion.

Steve Berry went close in the 16th, shooting just wide after Joel Griffiths had provided a pass near the edge of the box.

A frantic stretch of goalmouth action in the 23rd principally involving John Gibson and Griffiths eventually saw the latter's shot ricochet off Velemir Kupresak for an ultimately harmless corner.

There was a string of free kicks conceded by United around the edge of the area and the duties of taking them fell invariably to Milan Blagojevic.

The skilful player, now operating as a sweeper with the Power, was out of luck, his best effort being turned around the post by the agile Brett Hughes in the 35th. A Griffiths header flashed wide from just inside the box in the 38th after a fine cross from Ahmad Elnich and partner Jon Angelucci also nodded wide around the same time.

Parramatta looked set to open their account four minutes into the second half when a long ball from deep by Blagojevic found Berry whose shot was only parried by Hughes and as Peter Bennett looked set to converge on the loose ball United skipper Kupresak was able to lift the ball to safety.

United fought their way back and it needed good anticipation from Crews, who raced off his line to make a full length diving save beyond his goal area, to thwart Zec, who arrived in the box to meet a cross from the left by Jermen.

Before making way for Ray Younis, the skilful Genc had two chances which were both saved well by Crews who got down well to smother the low shots in the 58th.

Younis and Joe Vrkic had a clash of heads which left them both bloodied soon after Younis had arrived on the scene and Vrkic was replaced by Olyroo striker Mile Sterjovski.

Griffiths put a scare through the visitors' camp when his rasping long range drive at the hour mark struck the bar before going over.

Parramatta took the lead in the 62nd when a regulation corner from the left by Gibson was met in the centre by Berry with a glancing header that found the bottom far corner of Hughes' net.

It was only four minutes before United responded and they scored after a good move involving Rastall and Younis. Rastall on the right of the area back heeled the ball delicately in behind the defence and the effervescent Pondeljak took the ball to the near post and then beat Crews with a very good finish.

Pondeljak almost scored again in the 71st when he picked up another ball provided by Rastall, but crashed it into the

side netting.

Parramatta tried valiantly to reclaim the lead, Sterjovski chasing a long, high cross in the 75th and then seeing his close range shot well taken by Hughes.

Berry had an overhead kick clear the bar a minute later and Sterjovski sent one over as well, as did Berry a second time near the end.

That was the end of the Power's potency and they had to survive the danger of United getting a late winner after an almost suicidal pass across the face of goal by a defender three minutes into stoppage time.

Pondeljak was alert and saw that the ball was within reach, but Michael Santalab just got across in time to force him wide and police the ball over the goal-line.

After the game United coach David Ratcliffe praised his dismissed defender Savoca who had been his most consistent defender so far this season and also mentioned the improved showing of Jermen, who had been dropped, and came on as a substitute to good effect.

He was also pleased that Pondeljak found his scoring touch again and felt that the player would derive great confidence from the successful strike.

Ratcliffe also explained that talented youngster Nahuel Arrarte had played under a handicap as he was due in hospital for an operation four days later.

Power coach David Mitchell was again disappointed with his side's lack of spark and a generally low key performance by his midfield.

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Glenn Moore's majestic display lifts Breakers



CANBERRA COSMOS 1

Polak 25

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 2

Harper 44, Buonavoglia 61

Friday night at Bruce Stadium, Canberra. Crowd 2,889

MATCH STATS

CANBERRA COSMOS:

Barlow, Milin, Popovich, Hooker (c), Polak, Winnie, Watkins, Musitano, Hamilton, De Jesus (Kolpak 69), Gonzalez (Prenzski 80).
Subs not used: Arranz



NEWCASTLE BREAKERS:

Catlin, Moore, Roberts (Juchniewicz 78), McManus, Sprod (c), Dodd, Wilson, Wieczorek (Tancheski 85), Trpcevski (Smith 71), Harper, Buonavoglia.

Yellows:

Canberra: De Jesus 18, Hooker 86
Newcastle: Roberts 19

Reds: Musitano, Cosmos (49)

BEST PLAYER:

3. GLENN MOORE (BREAKERS)
2. Grant Barlow (Cosmos)
1. Andy Roberts (Breakers)

Referee: Matthew Breeze

By Chris Dunkerley
with Michael Kmet

A confident and fluent Canberra Cosmos couldn't go the distance at a magnificent but cool Bruce Stadium as ill discipline, and a determined Newcastle Breakers, snatched the President's Cup out of their hands.

Cosmos attacked from the outset and it looked plausible that their season would keep well on track, however an early shower for Michael Musitano in the 49th min ultimately proved fatal.

The two teams would have had different feelings coming into Friday night's game. Canberra's approachable Coach Tom Sermanni generally pleased with the season so far but wary of Newcastle.

Wily Lee Sterrey, stung by a small section of the Breakers crowd last week and this week's loss (due to four yellows) of skipper and pivotal defensive player Shane Pryce, was looking to climb back up the ladder as soon as possible and knew this game should otherwise 'by rights' be a chance.

With Pryce out Sterrey promoted youth league and fringe player Glenn Moore into his position and gave the captain's arm band to stalwart flanker Glenn Sprod.

The other surprise was the late inclusion of new signing (Blacktown City Demons' Novocastrian goal ace) Damien Smith, who started on the bench.

Sermanni's main concern was to keep his tyro side treating each game with the necessary intensity and consistency required of top six contenders.

"We're not here to do better than last year, we want to do well this year, he stated."

The teams took the field in front of a modest but enthusiastic and vocal crowd, including 30 or so travelling Breakers fans."

Cosmos took advantage of the Breakers unsettled defence to attack and

within five mins Daniel Watkins was twice in position to cause trouble should there have been any faltering.

The Breakers responded at the seventh min when Johnny Buonavoglia hit a firm header but straight at Grant Barlow. Cosmos won two corners in quick succession shortly after when David Millin and Watkins and then Gabriel Gonzalez got behind the back four.

Watkins then made a scything run through the Breakers defence only to see his shot cleared over the cross bar.

This was Cosmos best passage of play and a head-up Jason Polak gave a great cross to Musitano only to see him 'sky' the shot from close range.

The game got bogged down in the middle and play was starting to get 'willing'. Andy Roberts who had been trying manfully to stamp authority in the centre of the park was judged to have stepped over the mark and was carded by Matthew Breeze at the 19th min.

The pace of the game picked up and chances to Buonavoglia and Watkins came before the 25th min when ex Socceroo midfielder Jason Polak made space on the left, got into range, and let fly with a bullet that pierced big Bob Catlin's defence and bulged the top right corner of the Newcastle net.

At last Newcastle made some space wide and Travis Dodd made a surging run up the right side to the line and his cut back was met by Andy Roberts who seemed so surprised that he hit it over. Despite this miss one can look back at this as a turning point.

The affable Scot Sermanni stated after the game that "I thought we played well for the first 30 minutes and I thought we were in control for most of the game, and I thought we were comfortable at that stage.

Newcastle are a team that are very competitive, and they keep plugging away and never give up, they are very disciplined.

They worked their way back into the game and the signs were there before the first goal, the signs were there that there was some danger, and we weren't alert enough".

Andy Harper's free header at the 44th min not only equalled the score but gave an inkling that the Cosmos defence was losing its way.

Could Cosmos wrest the game back? Well that was answered in the 49th min when in a tussle over a free kick in midfield Michael Musitano said 'welcome to the big league' with a sharp elbow jab into Glenn Moore's face

Whatever Musitano's complaint against Moore referee Breeze strode straight up and brandishing the red one pointed the Canberra striker firmly in a westward direction to the tunnel entrance.

'Asked later whether this was crucial Sermanni demurred but admitted "It certainly didn't help - you can't keep having ten players. I mean this is three times this year, twice we've ended up with 10 players and once with nine players. You can't keep doing that, it tells on you. Even with 10 players we still had one or two chances and we didn't do that badly, but it's very difficult to win a game with 10 play-

ers".

The game see-sawed whilst Newcastle tried to settle against 10 men.

Vision's of last week's inept adjustment to playing nine men flooded back, however wide men Sprod and Brad Wieczorek started to find that extra space.

Sprod's magic 40m diagonal



Andy Roberts, together with young Glenn Moore formed an impressive Breakers backline.

claimed: "We're still only 60% there with our play - our crossing was woeful.

"Although we scored two goals from crosses there were so many situations when we should have done better. We work on it over and over again at training and we still can't do it in a game situation".

He was positive however about the long term. "These guys have done well for

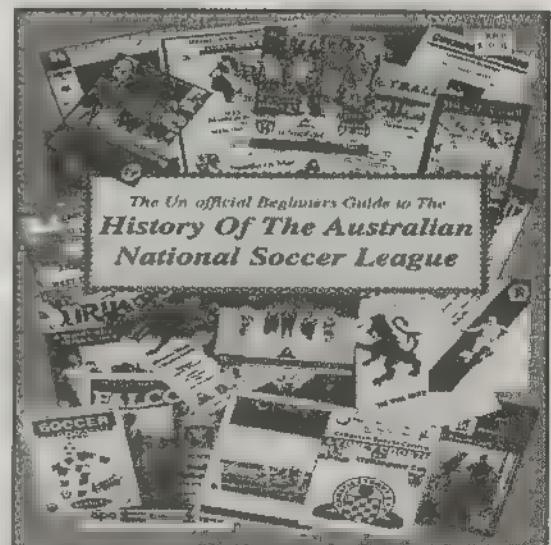
14 months and this was our first bad spell. It was great to see people come down and support the team. Realistically we have thrown six points out the window this year so we didn't deserve to be where we were - four draws and three (of those) we should have won".

On the send-off: "We still again, when the man went off, rushed it for 10-15 minutes and I was screaming to settle it down and slow it down and get it back to the defence and wide again when we needed to. When we did that we got our dominance".

On Glen Moore's MOM performance - "For a bloke who is still only 60-70% fit he was unbelievable. His reading of the game and coolness at the back was sensational so he'll put pressure on" (the squad).

On the future: "I haven't seen a lot of great teams in the league either so if we can improve on what we are doing week by week we'll be there. The blokes have faith in their ability and they know I have faith in them".

Sterrey also warmly praised and thanked the away fans for their faith and noisy support. "To walk out to the 'Breakers, Breakers' chant really lifted the lads", he concluded.



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ADELAIDE FORCE 2

Pelosi 45, Mori 90 (pen)

FOOTBALL KINGZ 3

De Jong, 29, Riddle, 48, Jackson 71

Friday night at Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide. Crowd 4,596



MATCH STATS



ADELAIDE FORCE

Knezevic, Zelic, Mori, Sabljak, Ferguson (Vear 76), Day, Kemp, Costanzo, Hassell, Pelosi, Kim (Talladira 36).



FOOTBALL KINGZ

Uting (Menillo 46), Bunce (Jones 52), Stergiopoulos, Jackson, de Jong, Middleby, Ngata, Osman, Vichelich, Riddle, Lines (Rufer 59).

Yellows
Pelosi 18 (Force)
Red
Osman 89 (Kingz)

Best Players:
3 RIDDLE (KINGZ)
2 Vichelich (Kingz)
1 Kemp (Force)

Referee: Gerry Connolly

By Margaret Bowden
and Donald Campbell OAM

Another Friday night, another new player on parade for the Force. Could Derek Ferguson, ex-Scottish international, Rangers, Sunderland, Hearts and Partick Thistle star be the new Dixie Deans of Adelaide? He must have thought he'd landed in the wrong country when faced with the pre-match entertainment - a chilling rendition of the Haka by members of the Adelaide Maori Community.

To add to the confusion, the teams played in such similar strips that it was difficult to tell them apart - an absolutely ridiculous state of affairs.

With a bright pink sunset as a backdrop, the evening began with a pre-match game between the old and the new - Adelaide City champions of the past v their current Women's Premier League champions - and a farewell for two members of this team, Kristy Moore and Lia Matto, joint winners of the AWSA Referee's Choice Award for Best Player in the Premier League, who fly to England on Tuesday to take up professional playing contracts.

Then came the Haka, which roused the small crowd into a burst of cheering

and drumming.

This was performed as the Force warmed up, with the Kingz following behind the dancers as they advanced up the pitch towards the Force players.

The performance had its desired effect, seemingly putting a hex on Force striker Damian Mori and blessing the Kingz in front of goal.

First half statistics showed they had only one shot on target in the first half - Fred de Jong's header which put them 1-0 up after 29 minutes.

The Force had three shots on target, but couldn't score. The rest of the evening was not much fun for Force supporters or players, but the Kingz turned on an awesome display, with Chris Jackson putting the icing on the cake with their third goal - a 30 metre screamer which left Force keeper Vilson Knezevic as stunned as the crowd.

Throughout the entire 90 minutes, the Kingz capitalised on a shaky Force defence, sending wave after wave of attack wide down the right and thumping crosses into the box.

At the back, the gigantic Che Bunce repelled everything - heading away high balls, clearing low balls - and showing amazing speed and agility for such a big player with his brilliantly timed tackles on Claudio Pelosi and Mori.

Surprisingly, Bunce was substituted early in the second half.

Ivan Vichelich, another of the Kingz' giants, stood tall alongside Bunce, with a supreme performance, while Stu Riddle, looking more like a fierce rugby player than a soccer player, tore the Force apart, waltzing 40 metres with the ball, rounding Knezevic and dribbling into the net!

Aaron Lines, substituted in the second half, constantly threatened to score himself or set up de Jong with his crosses from the left.

For the Force, Ferguson displayed great talent in the midfield, but unfortunately found himself with nowhere to pass the ball due to lack of support from his team mates, while young Matthew Kemp put in a sterling effort at the back.

In the first ten minutes, the force had three scoring chances - Mori shot at Uting, bringing a regulation save; then slammed a shot again from a Nick Sabljak cross, forcing a brilliant parry from the keeper; and Pelosi missed a golden opportunity, volleying out a perfect floated cross to the far post from Ferguson.

The Kingz replied through Lines, then Harry Ngata slammed a shot wide of the left post. The Kingz began to dominate the midfield through Marcus Stergiopoulos, Lines and Jackson, bringing a shocking tackle on Stergiopoulos by Pelosi, who was duly booked by referee Gerry Connolly.



The Kingz' Stuart Riddle: a great goal by the rookie NSL player from New Zealand

De Jong then put an 'evening-upper' on Nathan Day, playing uncharacteristically deep, but that was the end of the rough stuff from both teams.

The Force's best chance of the first half came in the 23rd minute after Ferguson passed to Dong Ki Kim on the left. Kim, who later went off injured, sent a long ball into the box for Mori.

With all the space in the world, he boomed it high enough over the bar to bring rain!

Six minutes later the ball was in the other net, de Jong leaping at the far post to head in a cross from Vichelich wide on the right - 1-1 Kingz.

The Force almost replied through a mis-

kick from Day, but Uting pulled off a magnificent save. Riddle then tried his luck with a scissor kick at goal from a Robbie Middleby cross from the right, but he, like Day, miskicked.

Riddle and Lines both had chances before the Force grabbed the equaliser on half time. Kemp sent the ball to Sabljak on the right who sent a magic cross into the box where Pelosi rose above Bunce and Vichelich and bulletted the ball into the net with his head - 1-1.

Uting fell heavily in his attempt to save the goal. Stergiopoulos took over as makeshift keeper in the second half, but the Force found him just as daunting as Uting.

The Coast FM

Best Bricks and Pavers Award for the Play of the Game went to Riddle only three minutes in to the second half, when he gained possession just inside his half and dribbled the ball through the entire defence and into the goal - AMAZING - 2-1 Kingz.

This stirred them on to more and more attacks through Middleby on the right, Lines on the left and de Jong up the middle. The Force also stepped up a gear, but the Kingz played the offside trap to perfection, frustrating Mori, Pelosi and Bradley Hassell.

The moment arrived many people had been waiting for - the legendary Wynton Rufer came on for Lines - but his arrival was overshadowed by Stergiopoulos' save from a Mori point blank shot then a save off the line from a Sabljak shot from only a metre!

Mori missed another open chance a few minutes later, running onto a long ball with Stergiopoulos stranded - but Mori couldn't control the ball and it bounced wide of the left post off his knee!

Then the Kingz buried the Force. Rufer took a free kick 20 metres out wide on the left. He knocked it back to Jackson who latched onto it and slammed it into the far right top corner of the net from 30 metres. What a goal!

The Kingz had another chance five minutes later when Rufer flicked the ball out to Riddle on the right, but Riddle's shot was well saved by Knezevic. Menillo then tried to shame his former club with a long drive, but it sailed over the bar.

Then it happened. On the stroke of 90 minutes, Ivan Zelic unleashed a rocket from the edge of the box. Levent Osman, in desperation, handballed it clear on the line. Gerry Connolly had no hesitation, red carding Osman for the offence and pointing to the spot.

Up stepped Mori. Could he score? Yes! But too late - 3-2 for the Kingz.



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Turnbull keeps Marconi on track



MARCONI STALLIONS 1

Trajanovski 13

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 0

Sunday afternoon at Marconi Stadium, Sydney. Crowd 5,774

MATCH STATS

MARCONI

Turnbull, Gibson, Care, Maloney, Smith, Invincible, Farah, Renaud, Marchesini (Awaritefe 45), Trajanovski (Junior 81), Zoric.

WOLLONGONG WOLVES:

Pogliacomi, Souris (Surjan 67), Stanton, Cervinski, Horsley, Reid (Spencer 81), Young, Chipperfield, Harlock, Huxley, Masi (Petrovski 74).

Yellows

Marconi: Care, Marchesini, Smith
Wollongong Wolves: Chipperfield, Souris, Stanton

Red Cards

Marconi: Care 57

Best Players

3 - TURNBULL (MARCONI)
2 - Farah (Marconi)
1 - Zoric (Marconi)

Referee: Brett Hugo

By Stephen Webb

A 13th minute penalty helped a depleted Marconi clip the claws of the rampant Wollongong Wolves on Sunday.

Without the suspended Darren McDonald and injured Zeljko Babic and Kim — and playing 33 minutes with ten men — Marconi kept the league's top scorers scoreless and handed them their first away loss for the season.

Marconi took the lead when Kris Trajanovski scored from the spot after being impeded by Souris. Contrary to the coaches' promises of exciting, attacking football, the first half was otherwise uninspiring.

The game really only brightened after Christian Care was sent off 12 minutes into the second half for a "simulation" — his second bookable offence. With Awaritefe and then Junior coming on in the second half, Marconi kept attacking and destabilising Wolves' own forward movement.

Michael Turnbull and the Marconi defence, Buddy Farah in particular, did what was required to keep Wolves at bay.

Coach Nick Theodorakopoulos kept Fijian striker Esala Masi in the starting line-up despite a poor showing the previous week and despite Saso Petrovski scoring a hat-trick against Canterbury Marrickville mid week.

On a pass from Matt Horsley in the eighth minute Masi turned well to beat a defender and hit a cross that was cut out by Care. He continued to be involved in the game — but ultimately to no effect.

Trajanovski won the penalty for Marconi as he ran into the Wolves penalty area from the left chasing a beautiful 40-metre cross from Farah on the right flank. Souris could only badger the Marconi striker enough to give away the penalty —

which Trajanovski put away with ease.

Marconi were playing the ball better. Vlado Zoric hit a couple of penetrating passes. Receiving one, Brad Maloney could only help the ball on to Leslie Pogliacomi.

Wolves' passing and running game wasn't coming off. Scott Chipperfield, who in recent weeks seemed able to take on anyone, found Farah, Care and Smith more difficult.

In the 25th minute Masi helped a shot from Stuart Young over the bar. A few minutes later Masi, running from midfield, worked a routine with Paul Reid at the end of which his shot on target was held by Turnbull.

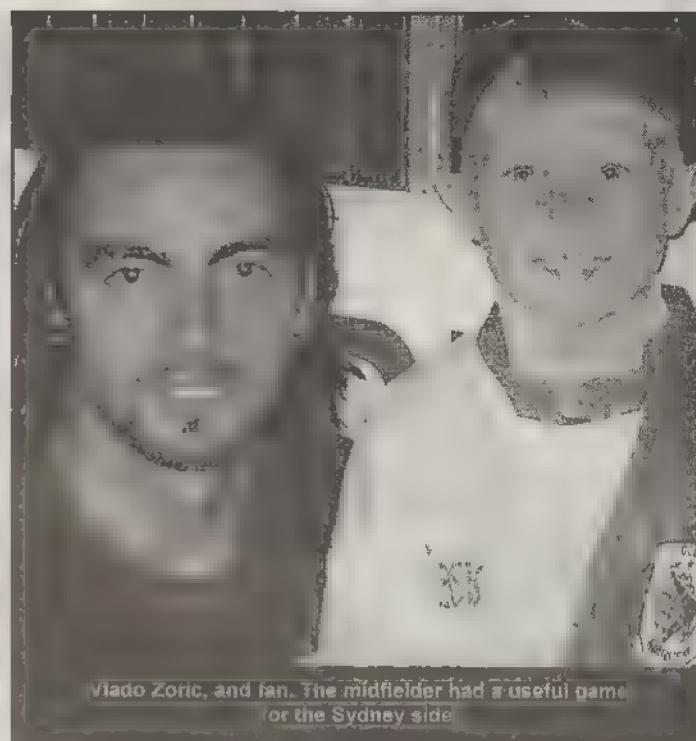
Turnbull was called into action

Zoric, Awaritefe got a cross in after beating Stanton. David Cervinski helped Wolves retain some possession, particularly through winning challenges in the air.

But Wolves could see if was going to be hard to secure a point let alone a win.

In the 66th minute Horsley received the ball breaking down the right. His cross was only cleared outside the box to Harlock who blasted over.

In the 72nd minute, after a good Wolves build-up, Reid passed to



Vlado Zoric, and Ian. The midfielder had a useful game for the Sydney side

Horsley who shot from the right side of the Marconi penalty area only to see Turnbull touch it over. Young headed Chipperfield's resulting corner over the crossbar.

Later, a great tackle by Renaud was all that stopped Horsley racing off on a counter-attack down the right.

In the 78th minute Zoric received the ball from Trajanovski and slotted it through to Maloney. The Marconi skipper returned the ball to Trajanovski who, running into the

Wolves penalty area, could only manage a soft shot.

The ball was soon at the other end where Turnbull denied Wolves one of their best chances. On one of the rare occasions Wolves worked deep into the Marconi area, Surjan found the ball at his feet a metre off the goal line but, under pressure from Turnbull, couldn't release a shot.

Chipperfield won a corner from Maloney after lead-up work by Noel Spencer and Harlock. And Spencer had a long-range shot over the bar from Surjan's corner kick.

Marconi gave Wolves a scare in the 89th minute. A shot from Maloney on the

right, following good work by Zoric, Gibson and Invincible, flew off the upright for a goal kick.

Marconi coach Eddie Krncevic said it was a good result after Marconi's loss the previous week. He said it always was going to be a hard game. Wollongong sat back and tried to score on the counter, he said. Both sides had chances but overall he thought Marconi deserved to win.

Of his 18-year-old goalkeeper, he said Turnbull was "a wonderful talent and probably one of the best talents we've seen in Australia for a very long time".

All Theodorakopoulos could take from the game was an interesting statistic: in the last four games Wollongong had only conceded three goals ... and they were penalties.

He thought Wolves had eight to ten shots on target whereas Marconi had only the penalty and one that hit the post. "Territorially, the chances, the shots on goal, the possession — it was all in favour of the Wolves. We just didn't dominate."

He thought Wolves started the second half well. "I asked for a little bit of additional effort. We tried to get the ball wider. And it actually worked. I think Turnbull and Buddy Farah were outstanding."

He said some of his players played below par: "Just a touch flat." He said,

"We were free flowing. We started to get players in behind. We just couldn't penetrate where it counted — in and around the box."

"But it's certainly nothing to worry about."



Franco Awaritefe
Second half sub for
Marconi

again in the 32nd minute, holding a free kick from Neil Harlock that sailed high into the box. Turnbull's high catching was exemplary throughout the evening.

A symptom of Marchesini's "struggling" night out was when in the 33rd minute he found himself with the ball, unmarked, in the Wolves' penalty area. His free shot from the right only hit the side netting.

In the latter minutes of the lifeless first half Zoric had a good run at goal from the left touchline and Harlock whacked a shot wide right of the Marconi goal.

The second half provided the better spectacle.

Turnbull saved from Masi at close range in the 48th minute Chipperfield then won Wolves a corner after beating Smith and crossing.

Marconi replied with a combination from Zoric, Trajanovski and Invincible who crossed to Awaritefe who in turn shot over the Wollongong goal.

A few minutes later Masi shot low and hard from the edge of the Marconi penalty area. Turnbull held it — with only the slightest fumble.

Care's sending off — disputed by some who thought he really was tripped — could have been a turning point. But instead of missing his running and contribution to passing sequences, Marconi became more threatening.

Awaritefe had to do more running, but pushed forward and held the ball up as was required of him.

Reid and Horsley lost out taking on

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The Bell tolls for Spirit

GIPPSLAND FALCONS 2

Puca 21, Mandic 28

NORTHERN SPIRIT 0

Saturday night at Falcons Stadium, Gippsland. Crowd 2,173



MATCH STATS



GIPPSLAND FALCONS

Jevdjevic, Fak, Gotis, Durakovic, Marcina, Vargas, Bell, Puca, Hutchinson, Nilo (MacNicol 73), Mandic (sent off 57). (Subs not used Hastie, Savage)



NORTHERN SPIRIT:

Perosh, Bingley, Casserley, Sobczyk, Biokapic (Cantanzaro 75), Cunico (Moss 55), Griffiths A., Cranney S. (Seal 35), Saad, Faria, Perinich

Yellow Cards:

Gippsland Falcons: Mandic 28, Marcina 37, Fak 75
Northern Spirit: Casserley 45, Cunico 50.

Red Card:

Gippsland Falcons: Mandic 57

Best Players:

3. BELL (FALCONS)
2. Puca (Falcons)
1. Hutchinson (Falcons)

Referee: Con Diomis.

By Lucio Viggiano

In blustery conditions at Mobil Park, the Gippsland Falcons registered their second victory of the season against the highly fancied Northern Spirit. Igor Mandic, a striker signed by the Falcons from Victorian Premier League side Springvale White Eagles less than a month ago, made a memorable debut by scoring and getting sent off in an eventful match.

Difficult conditions resulted in a scrappy start to the game with the Falcons looking to make any early impact with the aid of a very strong breeze. Both sides were having difficulty stringing passes together and the respective defenders were finding it a real test to judge the flight of the ball.

The Falcons settled earliest with Vargas and Bell gaining control of the midfield and distributing the ball well to Puca and Marcina on the flanks. Jeff Hopkins had made a tactical variation to the Falcons lineup in an attempt to solve the goal scoring problems of previous weeks.

Hopkins decided to play three forwards, pushing Hutchinson from his customary midfield role into a left side attacking role which was paying early dividends as the combination of Nilo, Mandic and Hutchinson terrorised the Spirit defenders.

The first real chance of the game fell to the Falcons in the 20 minute, when man-of-the-match' Clayton Bell made a strong run from midfield, hitting a powerful shot that was well held by Perosh in the Spirit goal.

The Falcons were clearly on top and stretching the Spirit defence, which lead to a free kick just outside the Falcons penalty area in the 21 minute.

The resulting free kick lead to the first goal of the game with the in-form Robbie Puca bending an inch perfect shot around the Spirit wall into the top corner of the net. 1-0 Gippsland Falcons.

The Falcons, having adapted better to the conditions were spurred on by the goal and were playing with a confidence that has not been evident in recent weeks.

The experienced Bingley and Biokapic for the Spirit were battling hard in defence to stem the wave of Gippsland attacks but there was little they could do when in the 28 minute Mandic latched onto a loose ball to score his debut goal for the Falcons.

A teasing run and powerful shot by Hutchinson, was too hot to handle for Perosh in the Spirit goal with the rebound, well challenged by the ever alert Nilo, resulting in Mandic having a simple tap in goal. 2-0 Gippsland Falcons.

It was to be a costly celebration by Mandic, earning an unnecessary yellow card as he proceeded to take off his shirt in a state of jubilation in scoring his first NSL goal. His dream debut was to turn sour in the 57 minute, sent off for a second bookable offence.

The Northern Spirit defenders could do little more than pump the ball long in the hope of catching the Falcons on the break. The only real chance to the Spirit in the first half fell to Cranney in the 35 minute.

A break down the right by Casserley lead to a looping cross which was well challenged by Cranney only to see the ball go wide after a heavy collision with Jevdjevic in the Falcons goal. Cranney was subsequently replaced by David Seal due to injury.

The Falcons continued to dominate the rest of the half through the efforts of Clayton Bell in midfield.

His hard running and distribution was a pleasure to watch and almost lead to a third goal to the Falcons in the 46 minute. A looping pass by Bell over the Spirit defence found Hutchinson running in to challenge one-on-one with Perosh, the loose ball being cleared away by a Spirit defender just before Mandic almost swooped to collect a second



Spirit player/coach Graham Arnold: will be making even more changes for this Friday's game.

opportunist goal.

Half-time 2-0 Gippsland Falcons. The second half began with the Northern Spirit attacking from the outset. Graham Arnold had pushed the experienced Matthew Bingley into a forward role in an attempt to get back into the match.

The Spirit team had clearly lifted with Abbas Saad and Tony Perinich prominent in many attacking moves. After a string of Spirit corners, Jevdjevic in the Falcons goal was almost left red faced when in the 48 minute a Spirit forward managed to kick the ball loose from the keeper's hands only to see



Spirit midfielder Michael Cunico (replaced by Phil)

the ball just trickle past the upnght.

The Falcons seemed content to absorb the Spirit pressure and were playing well on the counter attack through the efforts of the impressive Robbie Puca. His hard running and link play with Clayton Bell meant the Spirit defence had to remain alert at all times.

The context of the match changed however in the 57 minute with the sending off of Mandic. The ten man Falcons pulled back, making it difficult for Spirit to penetrate the Falcons defensive line lead superbly by the experienced Mehmet Durakovic.

The best chance of the match for the Spirit came in the 65 minute when a goal mouth scramble resulted in a shot being cleared off the line by the Falcons defence. Bingley and Saad were in everything, but to no avail as the ten man Falcons played superbly to hold out a Spirit team that seemed to lack attacking options.

The match ended in a flurry with substitute MacNicol hitting a powerful shot that almost found Perosh stranded off his line and the tireless Abbas Saad finding space in the Falcons penalty area on two occasions only to see his attempts go wide.

In what was an impressive performance by the Falcons, the best player on the night was clearly Clayton Bell. The former Australian Under 17 captain played one of his best games to date for the Falcons.

His hard running and ball distribution was the difference between the two sides. Robbie Puca continues to impress with his speed down the flanks and teasing crosses, while John Hutchinson adapted well to his new role as a forward to show he will be a handful for any defence.

Notable performers for the Spirit were Mathew Bingley and Abbas Saad.

The two experienced campaigners never gave up the fight to get Spirit back into the match.

Back in Sydney and Arnold indicated that he will make further changes for this Friday night's game.

In a press release he said that 'heads will roll'. Adding that 'I can't wait for things to turn around. When you are down you need battlers and people who are willing to die for the shirt.'

'At the moment we're not doing those things so the time has come to find players who are willing to put in. I want people who will battle for 90 minutes and be totally exhausted when they come off the field.'

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Strikers destroy Oceania champions

BRISBANE STRIKERS 5

Foster 45' 51' 64', Pilic 44' 67'

SOUTH MELBOURNE 1

Curcija 57'

Saturday night at Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane. Crowd 4,943



STRIKERS

1. Bolton, 2. Gwynne, 5. Bell, 6. Ditton, 8. Pilic, 9. Foster, 12. Dwyer (DiLosa 79'), 13. McLaren, 16. Grierson, 18. Meredith (3. Stefanutto 72'), 19. Baldwin (7. Smeitz 82').

SOUTH MELBOURNE

1. Udvaracz, 2. Iosifidis, 3. DeAmicis (17. Tsekinis 65'), 4. Orlic, 5. Blatsis, 6. Clarkson (8. Coveny 45'), 7. Panopoulos, 10. Curcija, 11. Anastasiadis (14. Magnacca 75'), 15. Lozanovski, 18. Liparoti.

Yellows:

Brisbane: Meredith 52'; South: Liparoti 43, Udvaracz 45', Coveny 73', Lozanovski 77', Iosifidis 79'.

Best Players:

1: PAUL FOSTER (BRISBANE)
2: David Pilic (Brisbane)
3: Goran Lozanovski
(South Melbourne)



Strikers coach John Kosmina

By Cameron Atfield

A Paul Foster hat trick set up the Brisbane Strikers' 5-1 thrashing of South Melbourne at a wet Suncorp Metway Stadium on Saturday night.

The win keeps the Queenslanders on top of the table and sets a new club record of nine consecutive games without defeat.

Coach John Kosmina was ecstatic with the win.

"You couldn't write a coaching manual better than the way we demonstrated with those five goals tonight," he said at the post-match press conference.

"I don't think the public could ask for much more."

Except maybe for better weather - the rain started just minutes before kickoff and did not let up in the first half.

The Strikers' customary early onslaught failed to materialise as South Melbourne took control of the game.

Goran Lozanovski in particular shined, especially at the set piece.

In the 14th minute, Lozanovski launched a cracker from well outside the box after earning a free kick from a Peter Dwyer challenge.

Socceroo Clint Bolton in the Brisbane goal was well beaten when the ball took a deflection, but luckily for him it hit the crossbar.

The Strikers' first notable attempt on goal came 10 minutes later. Dwyer found David Pilic in space, but his powerful shot flew across the face of goal.

South Melbourne got over that scare very quickly with a dangerous counter-attack that almost paid off.

Bolton made a terrific save from a dangerous short-range Lozanovski angled shot.

But the Brisbane keeper's good work nearly came undone just minutes later, when a fumble gifted South Melbourne striker John Anastasiadis with a great chance.

Bolton managed to regain his composure and snuff out the former Greek league professional's chance.

It was a busy period for Bolton, who was lucky not to concede a goal in the 40th minute.

He was able to block a powerful Lozanovski shot, but defenders Glenn Gwynne and Stuart McLaren made a meal of the clearance.

McLaren gifted Nick Orlic with a chance, but he could only head the ball over the bar.

On the other end of the field, South Melbourne's Hungarian keeper Milan Udvaracz was looking very uncomfortable in the slippery conditions, and it seemed only a matter of time before he would be beaten.

That time came just as the crowd was getting ready for the break.

Predictably, it was 'goal-a-game' Foster who found himself on the end of a neat one-two with Peter Grierson to net his first goal of the night, and his seventh of the season.

The goal came against the run of play - not that it mattered to the Brisbane players who were elated.

So too were 4,943-strong crowd, who hardly had time to sit down before the Strikers stunned the visitors with another goal barely a minute after the first.

This time it was Pilic doing the honours for the Strikers after he got on the end of a long Nick Meredith cross. Udvaracz was furious, and his antics earned him a yellow card - referee Simon Micallef's first of the night.

South Melbourne looked rattled, and coach Ange Postecoglou must have wel-

comed the half time whistle.

Whatever Postecoglou said at half time failed to inspire the Oceania champions, as they found themselves in deeper trouble just six minutes in to the second half.

Dwyer left Lozanovski in his wake on the left flank and sent in a perfect cross to Foster, who was never going to miss.

Foster's strike had the Brisbane Strikers 3-0 up after 51 minutes.

South Melbourne's only goal arrived in the 57th minute after a dreadful error by Strikers defender Matt Bell.

His poor headed clearance fell nicely to Michael Curcija, who took his chance with ease to earn South Melbourne a consolation goal.

But the Strikers put the game out of South's reach seven minutes later when Foster scored his first hat trick for the Strikers.

Foster headed a Pilic cross past Udvaracz, who seemed glued to the spot, to put the game well out of South Melbourne's reach.



David Pilic: another one of the surprise packets at the Strikers.

Udvaracz was not having a great night, and just three minutes later he was again collecting the ball from the back of his net.

The Strikers fifth and final goal of the night was scored by youngster Pilic, who was able to beat a defender and the goalkeeper with apparent ease.

Pilic could have got a hat trick of his own in the final minute of play after being set up by Strikers debutante Shane Smeitz, but Udvaracz was able to smother the attack.

The Strikers had time for one more raid on South Melbourne's goal, but Grierson's long-range effort was well saved by Udvaracz.

South Melbourne coach Ange Postecoglou was a downcast figure in the



The amazing Paul Foster. Nine goals so far.

dressing rooms.

"I thought we did quite well in the first half up until the last few minutes when we conceded two goals," he said.

"The boys were a little upset about there not being any offside, but I don't think it affected the result."

Predictably, Kosmina was full of praise for Paul Foster, who leads the NSL goalscoring table with nine goals in as many games.

"He's in great form at the moment," he said.

"We didn't have a finisher last season - we made chances that we didn't take. He's got a good head in front of goal."

Kosmina said Foster, along with fellow veterans Peter Dwyer, Nick Meredith and Peter Grierson have been great with the squad.

"These guys are sensible... They know how to keep a lid on things."

On the other end of the age scale are Jade North and Wayne Sroj, who played in the U/17 World Cup Final earlier in the day, in which Australia was unfortunate to go down to Brazil on penalties.

Kosmina said he looked forward to having them back in the squad.

"We have to get clearance from the AIS first up, then I'll probably give them a week off because three months in camp with Les Scheinflug is punishment enough for anybody," he said.

"But we've got to take it as it comes. They might get offers from overseas although they're contracted here, but they would be very handy to have back to add a bit more depth."

Depth, it seems, is a problem with the Strikers again this season.

"We probably struggle at the back a little bit," said Kosmina.

"Davo (Andrew Davidson) is out with his broken toe and there's only four other defenders. That's a problem and I'm looking at what we can do to cover that area. Signing new players isn't out of the question at all."

Kosmina could use the upcoming match against the Solomon Islands Olympic team to try out some local talent. The game is at Perry Park on Tuesday December 7 at 7pm. Admission is free.

Glory's defence finally gels

PERTH GLORY 4

Ergic 4, Miller 66, Edwards 75

CARLTON 2

Markovski 32, Moriera 55

Sunday afternoon at Perth Oval, Perth. Crowd 11,838



GLORY: Petkovic, Trajkovski, Miller, Naven, Thorpe, Edgar, Ergic (Despotovski), Wehrman, Boutsianis (Afkos 88), Edwards, Halpin (Carbone 80)

CARLTON: Anastasiadis, Marth, Terminello, Packer (Thompson 45), Deans, Douglas, McPherson, Antonopoulos (Azzopardi 86), Atkinson, Moreira, Markovski (Conroy 65)



Yellows:

Glory: Halpin 9, Wehrman 25, Trajkovski 58, Carbone 79 Carlton: Marth 46

Reds: Glory: Wehrman 37 Carlton: Conroy 76

BEST PLAYER:
3-TROY HALPIN (PERTH GLORY)
2-Ivan Ergic (Perth Glory)
1-Hamilton Thorpe (Perth Glory)

Referee: Wayne Dade

By Dennis Gedling

A ten man Perth Glory showed their army of fans that patience is a virtue with a blistering performance against early premiership favorites Carlton at Perth Oval. Glory dominated the midfield and seem to lift a cog after Socceroo Kasey Wehrman was sent off for a second bookable offence.

Ivan Ergic showed his worth to Olyroo coach Raul Blanco who was in the very vocal crowd of over 11,000 fans. Glory came into this game on the back of a 6-1 hiding the week before against a hapless Knights team, they knew that this would be the true test.

Carlton had been on the wrong end of a Parramatta thrashing going down at home 3-1.

New Glory signing Jason Petkovic made his debut in place of the injured Tony Franken. Hamilton Thorpe also made his first start replacing the suspended Jamie Harnwell. Otherwise the Glory started the match with a normal line-up.

Carlton were missing the suspended Lubo Lapansky. John Markovski started up front with Alex Moreira, Archie Thompson on the bench.

The game got off to a fast start just like the previous week, Wehrman having a shot on goal in the first minute that was deflected wide.

It didn't take Glory long to get on the sheet. A break from the defence by Boutsianis found a hard running Edwards who passed on to Ergic, quickly turning off the Carlton defender like a world class professional and coolly sliding the ball past the keeper.

Glory didn't have it all their own way



after the restart, Moreira leading the Glory defence a merry dance and having a ping on goal from close range, the shot going just wide.

The first clash between former teammates occurred in the 8th minute when Halpin and Deans clashed in the middle of the pitch, an overzealous tackle from Halpin resulting in a booking - Deans lucky to escape without punishment after his retaliation on his former teammate.

Glory were dominant in the midfield and produced an attack which resulted in a very close offside decision with Edwards one on one with the Carlton keeper.

After 26 minutes Wehrman went into the book after a nasty challenge from behind on Marth, the booking a just decision.

Deans was venturing forward to try and put the Glory defence under pressure but two feeble shots fell well wide, delighting the crowd.

The crowd was soon silenced by the one player who had bore the brunt of their hostility for most of the game. Markovski took a cross from a quickly taken free kick and easily headed past Petkovic to make it level for Carlton.

His celebration, exactly the same as the ones he did so many times at this ground in the purple.

Glory soon came close to going ahead again, Miller crossing to Edwards who outjumped Deans but his shot went just wide.

The turning point the game came in the 37th minute when Wehrman was sent off for second bookable offence, his second tackle from behind quickly being disciplined by the referee.

Glory soon found themselves lucky to still be level after a long hopeful ball by Carlton found Petkovic rushing off his line to head clear but his header outside the area went straight up in the air, leaving him stranded.

Luckily for Petkovic Terminello's shot at an open net went over the bar - the

Glory keeper's debut jittery at best.

Ergic had another run at goal shortly before the break, dodging defenders but his finish didn't match his run.

In the second half Thompson was introduced to fire up Carlton's forward line which almost reaped instant rewards

Thompson leaving the Glory defence for dead, shooting just wide.

Glory were soon back on top, a corner headed in by Ergic in the 53rd minute, the small dynamo scoring his second goal

Carlton soon rallied and a few minutes later winning a corner and getting back on level terms thanks to a scrambled goal from Alex Moreira. A good save from Petkovic wasn't enough as a crowded box was overrun with Carlton players, with Moreira first to react to put the ball in the back of the net.

Trajkovski was soon booked in the 56th minute, but his own game was lifting.

The ten men Glory was dominating the midfield, Halpin's workrate pressuring the Carlton players into blunders, which ultimately cost them the third goal.

A turnover in midfield resulted in Halpin setting up Edwards who flicked the ball onto the far post and Miller who put the ball away, about the only time in the game until then where the left wing back had been sighted.

Markovski was subbed shortly after, Conroy taking his place, Markovski completely taken out of the game by Thorpe who showed sheer class, poise and power in the backline

Despotovski soon came on for Ergic in the 72nd minute which showed Stange wanted to bury Carlton, not going for the safe defensive option.

Thompson once again came close, shooting just wide again, his pace causing problems that were few and far between for the Glory.

In the 75th minute that was justified when an excellent exchange of passes between Despotovski and Boutsianis found Edwards unmarked at the far post to head in the fourth for the Glory, sending the fans in delirium on top of the towelling of Markovski and Deans (plus the female streaker shortly after the third goal!).

Another blow for Carlton occurred in the 78th minute when the substitute Conroy was sent off for a harsh tackle on Naven, the red quickly being shown. The chorus of "Cheerio" ringing around Perth Oval

Glory sub Carbone getting booked and pings at goal from both sides kept the crowd happy until fulltime when Glory players went and offered their best wishes to Markovski and Deans, no hard feelings shown, especially between Edwards and Deans who were involved in some behind play scuffles through the match.

In the post match press conference Stange was happy with the result, still buzzing from the excitement of the match, his main focus was that the Glory stuck to their instructions on how to play Carlton.

On the other side Munro was very disappointed, quickly



Young Ivan Ergic: two goal hero.

to slam his players for an inept performance in which they were outplayed by a very strong Glory side keeping many Carlton players down during the match.

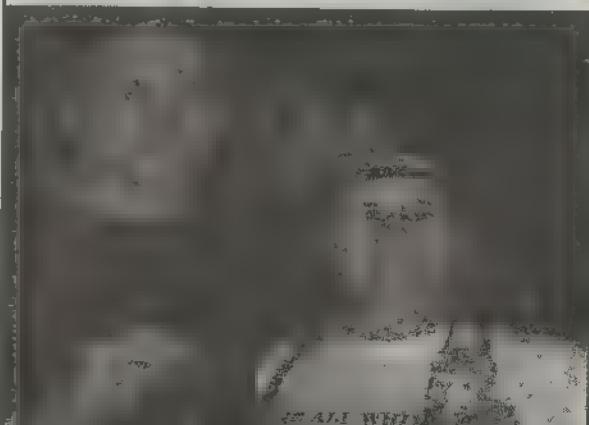
Ergic just quipped he was happy he was eating well after his parents had moved down from Geraldton. Carlton could not take anything from this game in which they were very disappointing, not to take anything away from the Glory, whose constant pressure on the Carlton goal reaping rewards.

Even with the wing backs having quiet matches and losing their top midfielder early in the piece, this was clearly their best effort of the season.

The excellent performances of Edgar and Thorpe on the Carlton strikeforce added extra confidence to the Glory.

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MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 2

Kelic 65", 73".

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1

Thomas 61".

Sunday afternoon at Knights Stadium, Melbourne. Crowd 5,101 approx

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS:
John, Rahjer (Magdic 72"), Kovacevic, Kelic, Nastevski, Kiratzoglou, Urlovic, Abbas (Vargas 74"), Vukadin, Susa (Vassallo 67"), Cervinski

SYDNEY OLYMPIC:

Bouhoutsos, Thomas (Sinozic 84"), Zoricich, Tsekenis, Baillie, Cardozo, Emerton (Tome 81"), Mendez, Wilson, Zorbash, Arambasic (Carle 74")

Yellows: Urlovic, Kelic (Knights); Baillie, Zoricich (Olympic).

Reds: Urlovic (Knights), Zoricich (Olympic).

BEST PLAYER.

3 - MARTIN JOHN (Knights)
2 - Ante Kovacevic (Knights)
1 - Lindsay Wilson (Olympic)

Referee: Derek Rugg

By Mark Fisher

The Melbourne Knights pulled off an amazing comeback win against highly rated Sydney Olympic on Sunday. In a game which truly came alive in the second half, few would have given the Knights any chance against a team boasting the likes of Cardozo, Mendez and Emerton; opposition which had accumulated four wins on the road so early in the season. A couple of goalkeeping slipups proved to be the major difference between the two teams, offering Ivan Kelic two opportunist goals in the last thirty minutes of the match.

The first half was so lacking in dynamism that only one shot on goal was recorded, when player-of-the-match Martin John saved a point-blank header from Lindsay Wilson in the fourteenth minute. Apart from that, the half was characterised by robust defending as well as a general lack of finishing from both sides.

Cardozo and Emerton got things under way for Olympic shortly after kickoff, but apart from the occasional wide run, Emerton made little impact throughout the match. Cardozo looked dangerous for the most part, and drew an early foul from Paul Urlovic.

For this indiscretion the Knights forward earned himself a yellow card in only the 6th minute.

The Knights seemed keen to prove to their fans that they could match it with quality opposition, and sought to erase from memory their big loss against Perth the previous weekend.

A promising play involving Dragi Nastevski, Urlovic, Alex Kiratzoglou wide and Zeljko Susa came to nothing when Adrian Cervinski's long looping shot was plucked out of the air by Olympic's goalkeeper George Bouhoutsos.

Olyroo Lindsay Wilson was in fine touch, creating several passages of play for Sydney Olympic. The wingback worked tirelessly near the right flank, link-

ing at times with Cardozo and Zlatko Arambasic. At the other end it was Alex Kiratzoglou providing his forwards with some useful crosses into the area, yet time and time again the Knights failed to convert.

'Chee Chee' Mendez was also integral in a supply role, playing forward to Arambasic in the 28th minute. Instead of shooting, the big striker sent a short pass to Scott Thomas at the edge of the 18-yard box, but Thomas sent his shot a metre over the bar.

It was evident that both teams were having trouble with their radars, but at least Olympic were able to get in between the Knights defence to mount the occasional chance near goal. The Knights on the other hand had trouble breaking down Olympic's back three in Thomas, Chris Zoricich and Peter Tsekenis, and so were forced to shoot from long range until late in the half, when a determined Ante Kovacevic started to push forward with confidence.

Nevertheless, the scorers weren't to be troubled until after the half time break.

The trend for the Knights this year has been to lose concentration in the first fifteen minutes of the second half. The signs were there that this was about to happen again, with Scott Baillie threatening after receiving another pinpoint Mendez pass from out wide. Baillie then ran inside towards goal, flanked by defenders either side of him, but it was the Knights' gloveman John who managed to courageously slide in and tidy up what was a dangerous ball.

Olympic must have done a bit of homework on the Knights, for they maintained steady pressure on them at least until the midway through the second half. Cardozo managed to find space up front in the 58th minute to shoot accurately at goal from inside the area, but John pulled off the save of the match when he flung an arm out wide to block the powerful shot.

Barely a minute later Mendez joined the fray, shooting wide. He then sent a neat well-weighted cross into the area but the big Nigerian Murtala Abbas was able to head clear.

Finally the Knights defence cracked when Mendez sent a through-ball forward to the running Scott Thomas, who duly obliged by shooting home to the right of the diving Knights' goalie. The score at the 61st minute mark read Sydney Olympic 1 - Melbourne Knights 0.

Sydney Olympic had deservedly snared the lead, yet much to their credit the Knights weren't about to drop their heads and buckle under the strain.

If there was one player who could instigate a revival for the Knights, it was the big defender Ante Kovacevic. Kovacevic demonstrated his desire to get back on level terms when he sent an absolute rocket from about 38 metres out.

His free kick was hit so sweetly that all Bouhoutsos could do was to spill the

ball into danger. Ivan Kelic was at the right place at the right time to seize the loose ball, and tapped it home whilst Bouhoutsos struggled to get near it. The game had well and truly come alive by the 65th minute mark thanks to Kelic's equaliser.

What followed after the goal was some classic end-to-end play; attack responded to by counter-attack. Cardozo had a superb crack from twenty metres out, but John's upward lunge kept the ball from dipping under the bar. At the other end Urlovic worked the ball to the by-line, turned inside and then fired at an acute angle only to see his shot deflected for a corner.

It was only a matter of time before either team took the advantage. Luck favoured the Knights on this occasion, with Dragi Nastevski sending a superb long ball forward for Urlovic to latch onto. Urlovic wasn't able to reach the ball, yet his run seemed to distract Bouhoutsos momentarily. Bouhoutsos fumbled slightly, giving Ivan Kelic at the far post a sniff of a chance.

The Knights marksman took full toll by displacing the ball from the lunging Sydney Olympic goalkeeper, and knocked in a second easy goal. The Sydneysiders cried foul, claiming that Kelic unfairly kicked the ball out of Bouhoutsos' grasp, yet the goal stood and the Knights had themselves a match-winning advantage in the 73rd minute.

The last fifteen minutes of the match saw some determined yet spiteful challenges applied, to the effect that Chris Zoricich and Paul Urlovic both earned themselves a second yellow card due to dangerous low challenges. The game eventually fizzled out after an

intense period that had produced three goals in the space of only twelve minutes.

Branko Culina appeared somewhat philosophical after the match. "Maybe we aren't as good as we think we are, or that people think we are", he said. He edified this statement by saying, "if you are going to be a good side (in this competition), you have to beat teams like the Melbourne Knights".

Culina gave credit to Knights' custodian Martin John, suggesting that it was he who managed to turn the game with some excellent saves in the second half. He summed up his own side's performance by claiming that his team "gave away two of the softest goals you will ever see".

Vlado Vanis has begun his coaching tenure at Melbourne Knights with a somewhat satisfying first-up win.

His pleasure was highlighted in sarcastic fashion. "Under me we have a 100 per cent record - maybe the best thing for me to do now is to resign!", he comically mused.

Regarding the play, Vanis felt it would be tough against Sydney Olympic from the outset - a team in his words "playing excellent soccer".

He had indicated during the previous week a will to change the Knights lineup in order to give fringe players a go, and one of the biggest shake-ups was to bring Murtala Abbas into the starting lineup.

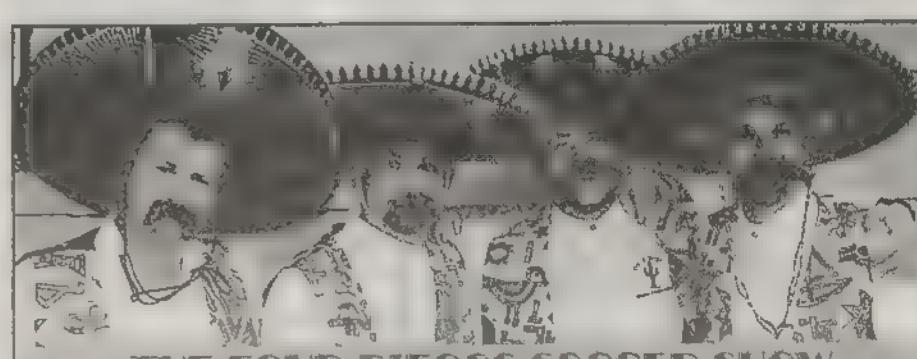
With key players Mark Silic and Ransford Banini out with injuries, along with Paul Urlovic's suspension, one key change this weekend could be the addition of pacy forward Hrvoje Matkovic, who is primed to impress his new coach after weeks of intensive training.



Knights' Ivan Kelic



Man of the Match Martin John



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INSIDE JUNIOR SOCCER



adidas

V.I.S.'s Naum Sekulovski

ACTAS 1
Breakers Youth 3

Chris Dunkerley reports that the Newcastle Breakers trio of goal keeper Brad Swancott, mid-fielder Robert Angievski and striker Chad Mansley, combined to defeat a gallant ACTAS on Friday night at Bruce Stadium.

Swancott made a number of instinctive reflex saves which reminded the crowd of when he was the Young Socceros keeper. Angievski's skill and industry in midfield was the platform that the Breakers used to seek victory, and Mansley's powerfully headed goal - Newcastle's second - was the one which killed the ACTAS revival.

Swancott was called into action after 5 minutes, turning ACTAS' striker Paul Ivanic's shot for a corner. ACTAS was playing the Cosmos custodian, Angelo Konstantinou, in goal and he had to react quickly to a smart chance snappet by Angievski in the 10th minute.

Three minutes later Carl Valen, the impressive young midfielder for ACTAS, brought the best out of Swancott, and then Mansley omniously robbed ACTAS' central defender, Elliot Zwangobani, but could not find the ACTAS goal.

Ivanic then had a good opportunity for ACTAS and then Angievski for the Breakers.

Nine minutes before half-time Angievski sent over a pin-point cross for Mansley whose header was finally put into the ACTAS net by Joshua Rufo.

ACTAS began the second half in sensational style, when Nick Mrdja took a great cross from Ian Waldon past Swancott and equalised for the Academy.

Mrdja was now on fire and a minute later fired a powerful shot which looked like giving the Academy the lead - the shot beat Swancott but ricocheted off the post for a goal kick.

ACTAS pressed hard but could not find that important goal. Angievski kept Konstantinou honest in the ACTAS goal.

In the 70th minute the ACTAS revival was cut abruptly short by the experience of Angievski and the deadly finishing of Mansley. A low fast cross from the right was nodded past

Konstantinou by Mansley, and then a few minutes from the end, Angievski's clever chip was headed home by Mitchell Johnson to make the final score 3-1 to Newcastle.

ACTAS: Angelo Konstantinou, Elliott Zwangobani, Ian Waldon, Phil Yarnold, Adrien Labutte, Stephen Kemp, Nick Mrdja, Carl Valeri, Daniel Aliffi, Adam Williams (Rohan Coleman, 87 min), Paul Ivanic.

Newcastle Breakers Youth: Brad Swancott, Chris Gazzard, Adam Skelly, James Kemp, Robert Angievski, Mitchell Cook (Mark Nicholson, 62 min), Chad Mansley, David Ross, Mitchell Johnson, Joel Grenfell (Heath Simpson, 50 min), Joshua Rufo (Peter Beckler, 89 min)

At the Sydney United Sports Centre on Saturday the N.S.W.I.S. recorded a three-nil victory over the Sydney United Colts.

The Institute have battled the last few weeks without the services of their coach Kelly Cross who has been on National team duty in New Zealand with the Joeys. The goalscorers for the N.S.W.I.S. were Tallan Martin after 15 minutes, David Carney in the 67th minute and an 89th minute penalty to Avaness.

In Brisbane, the Q.A.S. continued their fine form defeating the Newcastle Breakers Colts by four goals to two. The Queenslanders led two-nil after 17 minutes through Ian Bonato and Lawrence Drake. Alex Provost reduced the deficit just before half-time for the visitors. Soon after the break the two goal lead was restored by Matthew McKay. The fourth by Morley sealed the win but an injury time goal to Mitchell Campbell for the Breakers ended the action.

The Northern Spirit Youth achieved what no other team has in the past three years on Saturday night when they defeated the A.I.S. at the A.I.S. Soccer Field by two goals to one.

The Institute led after 10 minutes courtesy of a Tommy Bajurin strike but James Monie equalised for the Spirit in the 23rd minute. After the break the A.I.S. were reduced to ten men when Dustin Wells was sent off for his second bookable offence.

Things went from bad to worse a minute later for the hosts when Wes Bryett was dismissed for a dangerous tackle. The Spirit took advantage and handed the A.I.S. their first home loss in over three years when Dean Culina scored in the 80th minute.

Sunday's matches saw Sydney Olympic defeat their Academy at Wentworth Park. The four-one result could have been higher if the Youth team strikers had been on song.

The scorers for the Youth were Ali Chahine, who bagged a double, and singles to Damian Pisano and Peter Biviano. Anthony Samonikas scored for the Academy.

The late game at Marconi Stadium ended with the Marconi Stallions securing a resounding five-two victory over the Wollongong Wolves.

The hero for the Stallions was undoubtedly Harry Karl. He broke the deadlock in the 19th minute and also struck in the 37th, 67th and 85th minutes. Anthony Mondello scored for the Stallions after 36 minutes. For the Wolves, David Aldridge and Paul Dimech found the net.

The Parramatta Power beat Sydney United by two goals to nil on Friday night and the Marconi Stallions Colts recorded an emphatic five-one

win over the Wollongong Wolves Colts.

Roy Hay reports that Carlton beat Melbourne Knights by two goals to nil in the match of the round in the Southern Division at Knights Stadium on Sunday.

Hot and windy conditions greeted the players and all were glad of the water breaks half way through each period of play.

Carmelo Imiombato should have given the Knights the lead on twenty minutes when clean through but under pressure from keeper Steve Tilovski he scuffed his shot wide.

Ace Stojcevski came closest for Carlton with a shot just outside the post, and the first half ended goalless. Imiombato had another one-on-one with the keeper but could not beat him and it was Carlton which finally broke through on 74 minutes. Angelo Motsopoulos made ground down the left and his cross took out the defence leaving Stojcevski with a relatively simple finish.

With two minutes of regulation time remaining substitute Deniz Ekici ran through a static and square Knights' backline for a good second goal.

Anthony Pelikan, playing deeper than usual, had a good first half for the Knights, while Lance Plunkett and Ivan Gelemanovic tried hard to turn defence into attack. Nick Tolios and Serdar Pir did likewise for Carlton.

Bulleen Inter overcame Fawkner Blues by five goals to one after a close fought first half which saw the home team only two-one in front.

Fawker got a penalty inside the first minute but Bulleen keeper Michael Theoklitos pulled off a brilliant save.

Ryan Ollerton then put Bulleen in front on six minutes, but Fawker had a stranglehold on midfield and equalised through Robert Carmignani.

Xhezair Sulemani made it two-one at the break. Then Bulleen got firmly on top with further goals by Adam Curcija, Luigi Gullaci and Michael Marinelli.

Fawker keeper Michael Visconti was also in superb form and helped keep the score down as Bulleen threatened to run riot.

The Victorian Institute of Sport eventually came out on top of Albury Wodonga by three goals to nil at Grange Reserve.

Naum Sekulovski put the VIS in front in 32 minutes but it was deep into the second half before brother Ray Sekulovski added another goal in 77 minutes. Evan Papadopoulos made it three in the 85th minute. Whilst it is true that the VIS was the superior side Albury Wodonga battled hard right to the end.

Gippsland Falcons scraped a one-nil win over the Melbourne Knights Academy at Mobil Stadium. The only goal was a bizarre effort as Alan Paleka's attempted clearance bounced off Sandy Robertson in 75 minutes. The referee attributed the deflection to Igor Stojanac, but Derek Bailey from Gippsland said that Robertson, playing his first game for some time, was the player involved.

Matthew McCarthy was once again outstanding in the Knights' goal and is definitely a player to watch. Outfielder Hrvoje Matkovic again caught the eye for some skilful work.

In the other game South Dandenong beat Preston Lions by the only goal of the game.

NORTHERN DIVISION

	P	W	D	B	L	F	APts
Parramatta Power	8	7	1	1	0	28	4 22
A.I.S.	9	5	2	0	2	31	10 17
Sydney Olympic	7	5	2	1	0	17	5 17
Q.A.S.	8	5	1	1	2	26	10 16
Northern Spirit	7	5	1	1	1	13	7 16
Newcastle Breakers	9	4	1	0	4	15	14 13
Marconi Stallions	7	4	0	0	3	10	13 12
A.C.T.A.S.	8	3	2	1	3	15	17 11
N.S.W.I.S.	7	3	1	1	3	11	7 10
Olympic Academy	7	3	0	1	4	16	9 9
Northern Spirit Colts	6	2	2	1	2	8	8 8
Wollongong Wolves	7	2	1	1	4	7	14 7
Sydney United	6	2	1	0	3	6	15 7
Breakers Colts	9	1	1	0	7	10	22 6
Stallions Colts	7	1	2	0	4	8	19 5
Sydney United Colts	10	1	2	0	7	11	23 5
Wollongong Colts	6	0	1	1	5	5	23 1

SOUTHERN DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Carlton	6	6	0	0	22	2 18
VIS	5	5	0	0	15	0 15
Bulleen Inter Kings	5	4	0	1	15	6 12
Melbourne Knights	6	3	1	2	23	14 10
Gippsland Falcons	5	3	0	2	8	13 9
South Dandenong	5	2	2	1	7	6 8
South Melbourne	4	2	0	2	14	6 6
Fawkner Blues	5	1	2	2	8	10 5
Albury Wodonga	6	0	1	5	7	27 1
Knights Academy	5	0	0	5	2	8 0
Preston Lions	6	0	0	6	1	30 0

NORTHERN DIVISION RESULTS

A.C.T.A.S.	1	Newcastle Breakers 3 Ruf 35', Mansley 70' Johnson 89'
Parramatta Power	2	Sydney United 0
Sydney United Colts	0	N.S.W.I.S. 3 Martin 15', Camey 67' Avaness 89' pen
Wollongong Colts	1	Marconi Stallions Colts 5
Q.A.S.	4	Newcastle Colts 2 Provost 43', Campbell 90'
A.I.S.	1	Northern Spirit 2 Monie 23', Culina 80'
Olympic Academy	1	Sydney Olympic 4 Chahine 2', 73', Pisano 29' Biviano 61
Marconi Stallions	5	Wollongong Wolves 2 Aldridge 34' Mondello 85'
Northern Spirit Colts	Bye	

SOUTHERN DIVISION RESULTS

VIS	3	Albury Wodonga 0
Sekulovski		Papadopoulos
Preston Lions	0	South Dandenong 1
Gippsland Falcons	1	Knights Academy 0
Robertson		
Marconi Stallions		
Stojcevski, Ekici		
Bulleen Inter	5	Fawkner Blues 1
Ollerton, Sulemani, Curcija, Gulaci, Marinelli		
South Melbourne	Bye	

ANISSA TANN-DARBY

Australia's national team star, currently in Asia, comments on the Joeys' success

What a fantastic performance by the Joeys and a great result for Australian Soccer. Not only do all the players and coaches deserve our congratulations but also the unseen people who work at the State level at clubs and Intensive Training centres who have developed these young players, often from the age of 11.

The future of the female game lies in the state-based Academies. Whilst not forgetting the clubs where young girls first play the game and learn to love it, the academies are places where the elite players can learn about tactics, improve technique, begin weights and most importantly learn about being a professional player.

Females are often criticized for not being professional, but if nobody teaches you how to be a "good pro" how do you become one?

Men are lucky in that they have the dressing room environment where young males learn from older role models.

I remember when I used to train with Sydney Olympic I used to see Raphael Bove staying behind at training with Milan Blagojevic working on technique and Raphael would wear his playing gear just like Milan's.

Look where Raphael is now: a professional career in Europe and an Olyroo. The female game needs to create the dressing room learning environment and all the benefits that this culture brings.

Not many people may know, but the only Australian team to beat Brazil in a FIFA tournament was the Matildas back in

1988, when Janene Riddington scored a great solo goal for the Aussies to beat the Brazilians in the FIFA Pilot World Cup in China.

I have particular fond memories of that game as it was my debut as an 18-year-old and I also finished the game with a "sore arm" which turned out to be broken in two places.

However, watching videos of that

Not many people may know, but the only Australian team to beat Brazil in a FIFA Tournament was the Matildas back in 1988, when Janene Riddington scored a great solo goal for the Aussies to beat the Brazilians in the FIFA Pilot World Cup in China.

game not only has the playing strip changed from tiny shorts and tight shirts, but the pace of the game has greatly changed

There is no doubt that at every level of the game whether it be male or female, the greatest change in the game is the pace that it is played at.

I recently watched the famous Real Madrid v Eintracht Frankfurt game and whilst there was great skill from players such as Di Stefano and of course Puskas, there is no way in the modern game that players such as Gento be allowed to go past their fullback and then come back and do it again.

Can you imagine Kevin Muscat or Craig Moore allowing their winger to do

that??

At the recent USA '99 the athletic ability of the USA and Chinese was outstanding and whilst skill is an obvious necessity the days of the strolling ball player have gone from both the male and female game.

I played with some great female players but they would possibly not been as great in USA '99 as they would have had great athletes closing them down and kicking them!

If you don't get the ball you can't be skilful

I am writing this article from Malaysia, where I have been coaching the Johor State female players. This is when you realise how lucky Australians are in our approach to equality.

The girls were enthusiastic and dedicated, and in some cases very skilful but there is still a cultural argument against the girls playing and of course the facilities are not comparable to men's soccer in Malaysia.

However, I can remember feeling this as a player in Australia and in the last 10 years we've progressed to training at the world class AIS and playing on all the major stadiums.

Equality has been won by a lot of hard work by many unseen people and by players showing that females treat the game seriously.

Football is the national obsession in Malaysia and there are nine daily newspapers that all have football on the back page

It's a total football environment and everybody talks about football. It's a great atmosphere and also a pleasure not to

have to read about Rugby League all day. The game doesn't exist here

The male season is culminating this week with the Malaysian Cup Final and there is an Australian influence in the final between Brunei and Sarawak, which will be played in front of 100,000 fans at the Commonwealth Games Stadium.

Brunei being a foreign country in the Malaysian League have Brian Bothwell playing for them, or as he is known here Mohammed Brian as he married a Malaysian girl and converted to Islam. (Foreign players have been barred from Malaysia in order to develop local talent.)

The Sarawak side was coached for eight years by Alan Vest - who is now in Singapore - and Alistair Edwards was their star foreigner last year.

On television I watched the Singapore League where foreigners are allowed and saw Ernie Tapai and Vlado Bozinovski playing for the League Champions and Darren Stewart, who is hot favourite for the Player of the Year.

The reputation of Australian players in Malaysia is very high and many people remember the quality of play by players such as Mitchell, Durakovic, Ollerenshaw, Stewart and Blagojevic.

They have a great reputation for being the "good pro".

And as the Joeys have shown us, hard work pays off.

So hopefully all the young girls who want to emulate the Joeys players, remember that to play at this level it is about hard work, good habits, on and off the pitch and the pride of being a "good pro".



Derek Ferguson: Force import is a "good'un"



New Adelaide Force signing Derek Ferguson, seen here during his Sunderland days.

By Peter Daykin

Derek Ferguson arrived at Sunderland in the summer of 1993. These were dark days for the north east club which, the previous season, had narrowly avoided relegation from England's second flight.

Weaned on a diet of prolonged mediocrity, the club's fanatical supporters were at breaking point. Ian Atkins, Assistant Manager at the time of Ferguson's arrival, had left the club in the late 1980s, saying: "If you think champagne, you drink champagne. At Sunderland, they think water." A sentiment that just about summed up the attitude of the club.

Nevertheless, the summer of '93 saw a succession of new faces heading for Roker Park. None came with a reputation

more illustrious than this diminutive Scottish International, and it was his name that buzzed around the rowdy pubs of Wearside

At Rangers he had been a teammate of Sunderland manager, Terry Butcher, and, with the acquisition of a player with two Scottish caps, three Scottish League medals and two Skol Cup medals, it seemed, at last, like Sunderland were investing in quality.

Ferguson's impact was immediate... for all the wrong reasons. Following a pre-season friendly against local rivals Middlesbrough, he crashed his car driving the wrong way around Sunderland's archaic one-way system, sidelining him for the start of the season.

Worse still, the three passengers in his car constituted the sum-total of the rest of Sunderland's closed season investment, Andy Melville, Ian Rodger and Phil Gray also suffering from what many fans were now convinced was a curse on the club.

Devoid of all of their new signings, Sunderland bombed out 5-0 against Derby on the opening day of the season. Wearside wept.

Early set-backs aside, Ferguson soon returned to full fitness and from the moment he was introduced to the first team, the difference in class was obvious. Very much a midfield playmaker, Adelaide

Force should not expect crunching tackles and defence-protecting marking from Derek Ferguson, though, to be fair, his work-rate can rarely be questioned.

His talent lies in an exquisite touch and precise passing ability which allows him to float around the middle of the park, gently pulling the strings that control a game of football.

Neat and tidy on the field, neat and tidy in the way he dresses, these two words seem to adequately sum up the little Scotsman's character, tempered with a level of control rarely seen in the modern game of prima donna football poseurs.

Surprisingly, Sunderland's class of '93 failed to fulfil the expectations that sprang up around them - largely, many fans contend, due to the tactical lack of imagination of Terry Butcher. That and his insistence of playing himself at centre-half.

Ferguson was sold to Falkirk for £150,000 midway through the following season, returning to his native Scotland for some half a million pounds less than Sunderland paid Hearts to lure him into English football.

Upon reflection, he never quite did it at Sunderland, though some blame must undoubtedly be apportioned to the rest of the team - a side that flattered to deceive.

Friends from Scotland that have followed his career with interest, suggest

that he was never the same player after his wee baby died, though his falling out with Souness at Rangers was perhaps partly to blame.

There is no doubting the ability of Derek Ferguson, but it is at the heart of a good team that he thrives, playing balls to feet, probing and chipping away at defences until they capitulate.

In the five years since his departure from Sunderland, the club has turned itself around unrecognisably, hitting the dizzy heights of the Premiership's top-three, playing in front of over 42,000 at the finest stadium in the country.

It is only the happy few that witnessed Sunderland's nadir that can truly appreciate their subsequent zenith. For those of us that know, that truly understand, it was a handful of players of his quality that kept us going, kept us turning up, week in, week out, to watch that dross.

An Adelaide fan asked me if his team had "Signed a good'un." As we say in Sunderland, "Oh aye, he's a canny lad."

*Peter Daykin appears in Inside Soccer courtesy of the excellent Sunderland fanzines 'A Love Supreme' and 'Sex and Chocolate aren't as good as football'. See them at www.als.sunderland.com and E-mail enquiries@alovesupreme.freemail.co.uk



Zeljko Susa (front): former R&B musician

By Daniela Raco

In an era that has produced startling on-field success, the Melbourne Knights have been branded as one of the power clubs of the 1990s. Two national crowns, one national cup, five grand finals in seven years and eight play-off in nine seasons tells the story of the Knights' dynasty.

But without the likes of Viduka, Tiatto, Simunic and Co., came less success, hype and lower crowds.

Now, Zeljko Susa is among the many exciting, talented players coming through the ranks and establishing himself as a player who will shape the fortunes of his team.

With hard work he too is almost certain to move to more financially lucrative pastures. For now, while he is still firmly planted on our soil we asked him to go behind the scenes and away from the soccer pitch and give us a look at the new crop of young men at Somers Street.

So Mr Susa, let's get down to basics, are you a boxers or a briefs guy?

Inside the Knights Zeljko Susa with Daniela

Boxers.

You have spent most of your life growing up in suburban Canberra - a city where everyone shops at the Civic and sips coffee in Manuka until midnight when everything closes. Given this, how does Melbourne compare?

Canberra doesn't compete. Manuka is Canberra's attempt of Chapel Street.

Do you have a favourite Melbourne nightspot?
Heat on Sunday night.

Have you experienced any embarrassing moments on the field?

I've had my shorts pulled down!

How would you describe yourself as a player?
I'm an attacking player.

Best goalkeeper in the League?
Wilson Knezevic

Best Striker in the League?
Adrian Cervinski.

What is the best (or perhaps worst) excuse you've heard someone use for missing training?

Mine: "There was a blackout and the alarm didn't go off."

Have you thought about a career after soccer?

No, I'll deal with it tomorrow ... tomorrow.

Describe your ideal woman?
Long legs.

Do you prefer blondes or brunettes?
Blondes.

Which team-mate could do with a new wardrobe?

Martin John. He needs to get rid of the white shoes, and get a new hairstyle.

What aftershave do you wear?
GIO - Aqua.

Whether you like it or not Bosnich is under pressure for the goal-keeping position from the likes of Schwarzer and Filan, I doubt Ned would be under the same pressure although some people would have us believe that Paul Okon is Ned's natural successor.

If that is the case then surely a position must be found to accommodate both players.

One way to restore Ned's faith would be to surely make him captain of the Olyroos, at least this way we could see if he really does have what it takes to be Australian captain and at least my faith in Frank Farina will be somewhat restored.

The Guru
Email

What is your pet hate?
Compulsive liars.

What is your cherished possession?
My left boot.

Complete this sentence: 'Love is ...
when someone makes you feel good.

What would you consider to be a romantic night out?
Candlelight dinner at home.

Has this been played out?
Yes.

If you could have box seats at any event in the world, what would it be?

Boxing: Holyfield v Tyson.

What is the biggest misconception about sportsmen?

That they're all up themselves.

As asset to any guy is his taste in shoes, what do you consider to be a girl's best assets?

Lingerie.

Do you have hidden talents?
I was in a R&B band called '15 degrees West' - it never left the school-yard.

Which members of your squad would top Cleo's most eligible bachelor list?

Michael Reda - he'll nominate himself.

Where would you rate?
Right behind Reda.

Do you have a winning technique for scoring off the park?

My American accent when I'm with Reda and Co.

Who has the most unusual nickname in the team?

Jason Vukadin is 'Beckenbauer' - because of his elephant touch.

Which team-mate is likely to walk past 'Hungry Jacks' and feel compelled to walk in?

Dragi Nastevski - 'B1'

Do you know of any pre-match mishaps (missing strips, missing players, two left boots, etc)?

Last season in Wollongong our team bus arrived minutes before kick-off.

Which member of your squad has the best set of wheels?

Alex Kiratzoglou and his rust bucket.

Which member of the Knights squad is most likely to be caught dancing on a podium in a night club?

Martin John with the white shoes.

On interstate trips which team-mate do you refuse to share a room with?

Mijo Trupkovic, because he keeps looking at himself in the mirror.

I heard you have a phobia.
Yes, I have to be closest seat to the door.

Do you follow any pre-match rituals or superstitions?

I put my left boot on first.

The goings-on at end of season trips and interstate outing seem to form part of a 'secret men's club' that is never to be mentioned, and certainly never spoken about. Zeljko can you shed some light on what goes on during times of male bonding?

What happens on tour, stays on tour!!!

READERS' FORUM

I'm sure I speak for many Soccer lovers in respect of the treatment of Ned Zelic in the series against Brazil. Ned is arguably our greatest soccer player ever produced and to treat him in such a manner begs the question. Why?

Surely a man who has made himself available for Socceroo duty more times than not, got us to the Barcelona Olympics almost singlehandedly and has probably had more influence on Socceroo games played than any other player.

He deserves more respect.

Zelic should have been made captain for both games and it seems to have been totally inappropriate that Bosnich was handed the job considering he must have gone into the first game carrying an injury.



NEXT WEEK



Breakers' John Buonavoglia on life, football and Pizza!

Carlton's Archie Thompson on life, football and Seinfeld!

Aussies Abroad Round Up



Paul Agostino first start for 1860 Munchen.

The European Cups got back into the swing during the week and, again, a number of Aussies were featured in the big games.

Mark Bosnich played a full game in goals for Manchester United as they went down 2-0 away to Fiorentina in the first game of the second group phase. Bosnich made a number of important saves but was helpless in preventing the two Fiorentina goals. In both cases defensive errors exposed the Aussie 'keeper to one on one situations and the two Argentine strikers, Abel Balbo and Gabriel Batistuta, put away the chances to secure an important home victory for their team over a disappointing United.

Since his return from playing for Australia against the Brazil Olympic team Paul Okon hasn't been included in the Fiorentina squad and was again absent from the winning team in the game against Manchester United - he was also absent from his team's weekend nil-all draw at Bologna in the Italian Serie A.

In the UEFA Cup, Rangers, who were eliminated from the Champions Cup in the first group phase, were matched with the powerhouse Bundesliga team Borussia Dortmund. After having been unluckily eliminated in the Champions Cup by another German team, Bayern Munchen, the Scottish champions were determined to heed the lessons from those games and came up trumps with a 2-0 home win.

Both Australians, Craig Moore and Tony Vidmar, were prominent members for the victors - teaming up in central defence to thwart the Dortmund attackers. Moore played in his normal position while Vidmar was brought in from his wing back position because of the absence of Rangers' skipper Amoruso.

Harry Kewell did not participate in the UEFA Cup due to his team Leeds United's game being postponed because of an unplayable pitch affected by severe winter weather.

In the English Premier League, Richard Johnson continued his successful comeback with a goal, scored from a penalty, for Watford but unfortunately it

wasn't sufficient as his team went down 3-2 at home to Sunderland. The loss cements Watford in second last spot one point behind Bradford and Derby but having played a game more than Bradford.

Mark Schwarzer was, as usual, in goal for Middlesbrough in their nil-all home draw with Wimbledon - although this was a disappointing draw for the team they are safely entrenched in the middle of the table, sitting in tenth spot.

Harry Kewell (below) seems to have finally overcome the 'injury problems' that prevented his appearance for Australia against Brazil recently - Kewell played the full game in Leeds' 1-0 home victory over Southampton. The youngster was in top form again, threatening the Southampton defence and even clearing a goal bound shot off his line.

In the English Nationwide Division One, a full round of matches were played mid-week and a number of Aussies participated in their team's games.

In the game between Birmingham and Tranmere, won 3-1 by Birmingham, Stan Lazandis played a full game to help his team back up the ladder after a faltering last few weeks.

In a scoreless draw at Crewe between the home team and Blackburn Jason Kearton was between the sticks for Crewe while John Filan is still on the outer at Blackburn as he remained on the bench for the duration of the game.

Craig Foster's return from injury has inspired Crystal Palace's resurgence after a dreadful start to the season and they continued the momentum with a last minute goal in 1-0 home win against Norwich. Foster played a full game but fellow Aussie Nick Rizzo, himself recently back from injury, remained on the bench.

Queens Park Rangers lost 2-1 away to Grimsby but had some good news with the return of George Kulscar after his meningitis scare of a couple months ago. Kulscar remained on the bench but must be relieved just to get to that stage.

Shaun Murphy remains an ever present in the Sheffield United defence but his presence for the whole game didn't prevent his team going down 3-1 at home to Port Vale.

Swindon also went down at home, to promotion chasing Charlton, by the score of 2-1 but Aussie Frank Talia was in goal for the last placed Swindon team.

West Bromwich Albion had a 2-0

home win over Stockport with two late

goals - Aussie Jason Van Blerk played a

full game while Olyroo Andrew McDermott

remained on the bench.

In the Nationwide Division Two mid week games Millwall had a good 2-1 away win at Blackpool with Aussie Tim Cahill playing a full game while Lucas Neill returned from injury as a 72nd minute substitute.

Loan player Daniel Alisop had another full game for Notts County as they went down 0-1 at home to Oxford United.

In the weekend Division One games, Birmingham's march back up the ladder was halted by a 1-1 home draw with the bottom placed Swindon. Lazandis was left out of the home team squad because of injury but Frank Talia was again in goals for the visitors. Birmingham is sitting in seventh position eleven points behind the leaders Manchester City but well in sight of the promotion play-off positions.

Filan was again left of the Blackburn roster as it beat Stockport 2-0 at home - a win that has helped the team to drag itself away from the relegation zone.

Crystal Palace had another win when it beat Nottingham Forest at home to the tune of two goals to nil. Foster again a prominent member in the win while Rizzo came on as a substitute in the 88th minute, ironically replacing Foster.

Like Blackburn, Palace is slowly moving away from the danger zone with six points now separating them and third last Sheffield United.

United is one of four teams in the bottom five positions that include an Aussie - with Portsmouth, Swindon and Crewe all finding themselves in deep trouble.

United, with Murphy playing the whole game, had a 2-2 away draw with West Brom for whom both Aussies almost played the whole game as well. Van Blerk started and finished the game while McDermott came on in the 5th minute.

United is fourth from bottom, only two points in front of the last placed team, while West Brom is mid table but not yet safe as they are only nine points from the bottom in a congested lower half.

Crewe lost away to fourth placed Ipswich 2-1 with Kearton in goals for the visitors.

Portsmouth had a nil-all home draw with Bolton with goalkeeper Andy Pettersen on the bench whilst Mike Panopoulos entered the game as a 65th minute substitute.

Division One leaders Manchester City had a setback on the weekend when it was beaten 0-1 at home to Huddersfield, its nearest challenger. Danny Tiatto started the game for City but was replaced at the start of the second half.

George Kulscar made his recovery complete when he played the full game as Queens Park Rangers drew 2-2 at home to Barnsley.

Wolverhampton's 1-0 away loss to Tranmere included the ever present Kevin Muscat in their defensive formation but Steve Corica, with rumours of a transfer in the air, was not included in the visitor's squad.

In the weekend Division Two games Millwall's 1-2 away win over Bournemouth included Lucas Neill who had a full game but Tim Cahill was miss-

ing with injury.

Allsop had another full game for Notts County in a high scoring 4-4 draw with Bristol City and Andrew Bernal was part of Reading's 1-1 draw with Scunthorpe.

In the Scottish Premier League Mark Viduka continued his goal scoring form with a penalty goal in the 26th minute but Celtic lost out 3-2 to Motherwell.

The Aussies playing for arch rivals Rangers had a similarly disappointing 1-2 defeat at home to Dundee. Individually the two Aussies had eventful games, with Craig Moore going off in the 37th minute with an injury, but Tony Vidmar did the opposite - he came on in the 24th minute and was close to securing an equaliser late in the game. His goal bound shot was deflected by a team mate.

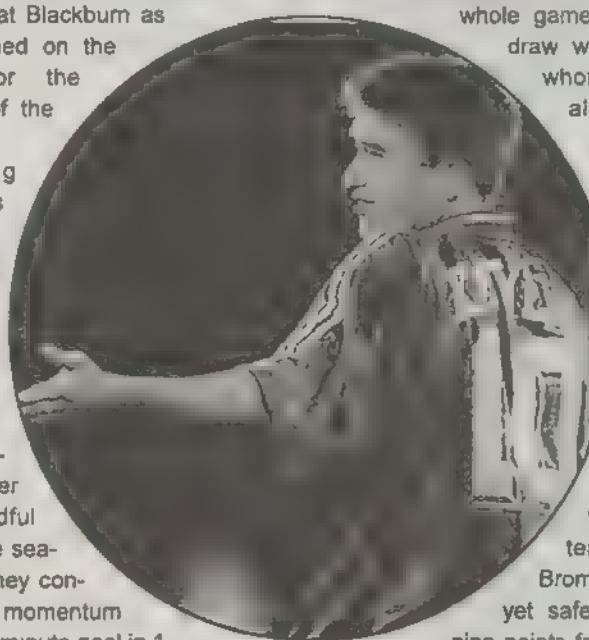
In Germany, the clash of the Munchen teams, Bayern and 1860, produced a win for 1860 for the first time for twenty two years as they ground out a 1-0 win over the current Bundesliga leaders. For 1860 Munchen Paul Agostino had his first starting game and ended up playing the full game. Ned Zelic was again absent from the home team, TSV continues to have a good season, currently sitting in seventh spot only five points from the leaders, fellow city dwellers Bayern.

David Zdrilic's team, SSV Ulm, on the other hand, is in second last position after a 1-1 home draw against Schalke on the weekend. Zdrilic came on the 70th minute after having been a regular starter in recent weeks.

In Hamburg's 2-1 away defeat to Werder Bremen Joe Simunic came on in the 40th minute and seems closer to securing a starting position with the team currently in third spot on the Bundesliga ladder.

In Croatia, Josip Skoko played a full game in Hajduk's 0-5 away victory at Istra - Hajduk leads the Croatian first division by three points from arch rivals Croatia Zagreb who have played one game less.

Ante Milicic is yet to gain a starting position with his team - he came into the game in the 89th minute to replace two goal hero Bosko Balaban as Rijeka beat the second placed Zagreb team 2-1.



Harry Kewell in action for Leeds United.



Josip Skoko another solid performance

HAVE YOU HEARD THIS ONE?

Bobby Almond, the ex-NZ international, tells the following well, courtesy of Grant Stantill in New Zealand... "Les Scheinflug was on a scouting mission (for Rudi Gutendorf) to Fiji during the 1982 WC campaign, spying on the All Whites against Fiji, before they played the Aussies. Fijian transport arrangements being what they are, Sparkplug (Scheinflug's nickname) ended up on the same bus as the All-Whites on the way back to their hotel - a 1hr+ bus trip. The feds made him stand all the way, sweat pissing off him, while they sang (to the Dad's Army tune) "Who do you think you are kidding, Mr Sparkplug, if you think New Zealand's done...." And the Kiwis weren't done, going on to do quite well at World Cup '82.

SEX SURVEY

Sex does seem to be a recurring theme this week. An Italian researcher has delivered a startling hypothesis, claiming that men actually perform better on the sporting field if they have sex before they play. "It's an adaptive mechanism," he says. "If a man has sexual intercourse, testosterone causes him to desire the next sexual intercourse. If he needs to be more aggressive, it's better to have sex." So what are the implications for the NSL's hard men, like Marth, Bilocapic, Gwynne and Naven?

MARCONI WINS AWARD

Club Marconi, formed 41 years ago by local Italians, has won a prestigious award for its expansion into the general community of Fairfield. Club Marconi received the ANZ Community Category Award of the 1999 Ethnic Affairs Commission's Multicultural marketing Award at a gala ceremony at the Sheraton on the Park, on November 18. The club is keen to shed the notion that despite the name, it is one for our entire multicultural community.

MOOSE APPOINT A COACH

Had you been reading anything other than 'Inside Soccer' five weeks ago,

This weekend Northern Spirit takes on Marconi in a derby match at North Sydney Oval and I can't wait for 7.30pm on Friday night when the game kicks off.

Derbies are fantastic and one of the highlights of every player's season.

I can remember when I was a youngster yes I can remember back that far, playing with Tottenham Hotspur in what was then called the English First Division (Now English Premier League)

While every match was exciting there was nothing better than a London derby against Arsenal. The match was more like life or death than football, but it was especially intense for the fans.

During my time at Tottenham we also had to come up against other London clubs like West Ham, Queens Park Rangers and Chelsea but for some reason it was the Arsenal match that really got the pulse racing - on and off the field.

When I left and went to Norwich, where I played the majority of my first team football it was exactly the same when we came up against Ipswich.

Norwich v Ipswich matches were huge

It's funny when people talk about derbies they talk about Liverpool v Everton, Manchester United v Manchester City or Inter Milan v AC Milan. The only reason these derbies stand out is because of the size of the stadium's those clubs have.

writes Greg Blake, you wouldn't have known that Vlado Vanis was a dead-cert to get the Melbourne Knights coaching job. Everybody else got it quite wrong and we nailed it long before the appointment was made. That childish 'told you so' out of the way, it's great to see the big 'Bull Moose' back in the big time. He was one of the genuine characters of the Knights teams of the early 1990's and should provide some great PR for the club. And apparently he can coach a bit, too. The club has also signed on as sponsor of the Keilor Gift, one of the top athletic meetings on the pro circuit.

NORMIE TO NORTH SYDNEY?

Stormin' Norman Tome to Spirit? Don't rule it out.

FUTSAL AUSSIES SET TO STAR

Following on from the Joeys' success, our national Futsal team is champions of Oceania and has qualified for the Fourth FIFA Futsal World Cup, to be held in Guatemala next year (Nov. 2000). We also have a new coach, with outgoing Jim Roberts (father of P.J. Roberts, formerly of Cosmos) being replaced by Brazilian Geraldo Delamore Moreira.

CARLTON ON-LINE

Just a word about Carlton's net site. It is excellent. Not only can you buy online via E-commerce, but their match reports are done virtually straight after a game. Well-done and definitely worth a visit.

GOON ONYA COSMOS

Congratulations to the Canberra Cosmos, coach Tom Sermani, and their media liaison officer for their willingness to accommodate the needs of the media last Friday night, particularly to our two Inside Soccer reporters Chris Dunkerley and Michael Kmet. Nothing was too much trouble for them who went out of his way to make sure coach Tom Sermani would be available for an interview for Inside Soccer. Despite losing the match, the amiable Sermani was happy to be interviewed. Great attitude guys.

If we had a stadium that housed 50,000 at Norwich we would have filled it every time we played Norwich; such is the beauty of the derby.

Northern Spirit v Marconi has quickly built up a similar rivalry to the Tottenham v Arsenal matches, although not quite as big yet, and it is great for everyone involved in the game, especially the two sets of players and the fans of both sides.

Last season we played Marconi, Sydney United and Sydney Olympic and this year we will meet Parramatta Power for the first time but the main derby atmosphere was generated at the Marconi match.

The first game last season was great for us as we managed to get up 4-0 in what became a landmark victory for Northern Spirit. Even today it is still our biggest win.

Then towards the end of last season who could ever forget the three games in three weeks after we met in the final round before backing up for the two-leg elimination semi final series.

Marconi came out on top that time, as they did a few weeks ago at Marconi Stadium and I'm looking forward to our next meeting on Friday night at North Sydney Oval. Hope to see as many Spirit fans as possible cheering us on.

Ian Crook,
Northern Spirit and England

CONTINUED FROM PAGE EIGHT

The combination of the antibiotics - which he proudly says he now hasn't needed for over 12 months - plenty of rest and even more patience enabled Bennett to start playing locally with Penrith in the NSW Super League.

By the time Mitchell and McKinna were trying to fill huge gaps in a Sydney United playing roster decimated by defections after the 1996/97 grand final loss McKinna tossed Bennett a footy lifeline.

At McKinna's insistence Bennett was given a run with United in an early Waratah Cup game.

McKinna recalls that Bennett held his place and three or four games into the series Mitchell turned to him with a sparkle in his eyes and declared, "shit, he can play."

"He's got a big heart, he can play anywhere and he's very, very tough," says McKinna

"I can't speak highly enough of the guy and he is a very good footballer as well."

"I can honestly say he is one of the first picked in our team every week."

Bennett rejoiced at his return to playing the game he says his wife insists is the number-one love of his life.

"Even like coming back to play locally was such a good thing and I really enjoyed it," Bennett said

"I mean then getting a chance with Sydney United, that was just marvelous."

"They gave the chance to myself and a few other guys and I really wanted to prove myself to people that I could still play."

Despite his age Parramatta clearly regarded Bennett as a player essential to the future success of the new NSL club and Power spent a combined \$60,000 on just Bennett and goalkeeper Andrew Crews, the only two players from the 16 to

cross from Sydney United who weren't out of contract and free

It was a move which pleased many of Power's contingent of former United players

"You'd rather have him in your side than have to play against him," says Townsend.

"To get back on the paddock and put in the way he does he is, definitely (an inspiration)."

As I said during the 'C7' commentary of Power's win at Carlton, Bennett does appear to play every game with grand final passion.

"You know if you've had a good game or not and if I come off the park not knackered I know that I haven't done my best," says Bennett.

"If I come off stuffed I know I've done something"

"That's been me since I was young, playing in defence and midfield I made my name by getting stuck in

"I like the hard stuff."

"I don't go out there to get involved but that's the way I am."

Now 30, Bennett bounces about on and off the field and declares his football use-by date is still "easy" three or four years away.

Bennett has a new lease on his footballing life as a full professional - something he couldn't even dare dream when he was desperately ill - and he isn't about to relinquish his grip too easily.

"It is a dream come true for me," Bennett smiles, having finally had the luxury of giving up combining his football commitments with 10 to 12 hours each days as a factory cook.

"Sure, maybe I could have played overseas but for me this is the ultimate."

"Playing full-time is about the best you can get"

Kevin Keegan and our youth development program is growing in stature every day in the U.K. and throughout the world.

R.S. What are your impressions of Australian football?

S.H. It's hard to compare the two countries because in England football is the number one sport with huge commercial and supporter base.

In Australia, football ranks behind the rugby codes, cricket and Australian Rules in popularity and the game seems unable to attract the sponsorship dollars which are commanded by the major sports. For instance, when we arrived in Sydney 2GB radio announced its one million offer to cover the Australian Rugby League competition.

I was also rather surprised to hear the N.S.L. didn't have a sponsor, something which is fairly hard to believe when you see the money poured into English football, particularly the Carling Premier League

R.S. If you were asked to assist in the progress of the Australian game at a marketing and administrative level would you take the opportunity, and if so how would you approach the task?

S.H. Certainly we would not refuse the chance if asked because it's fairly clear in the marketing of your game that there are problems.

The young Australian players will continue to move overseas as long as the financial benefits are not available at home and the continual drain of player talent must affect local standards.

It's all about long term planning and if you don't know your goals in any endeavour in life, you'll never succeed. A total reassessment of the game is required before football in Australia will catch up with the major sports



GHANA TAKES THIRD SPOT



Brazilian 'keeper Rubinho

The United States saw their 25-match unbeaten streak end, falling 2-0 to Ghana in the third-place match of the FIFA World Youth Championship before 15,675 at North Harbour Stadium.

After the medal ceremony, the Ghanaians invited the Americans to join them on their victory lap, a gesture heartily appreciated by the crowd awaiting the title match.

The U.S. fell 7-6 in the semifinals in a penalty-kick tiebreaker to Australia in a game that went into the books as a 2-2 tie, bringing the American U-17s unbeaten streak to 25 matches (19-0-6). The fourth-place finish was the best for any age-level U.S. men's team since a semifinal appearance in the 1930 World Cup.

"I said it after our last game, and I've been saying it for two years now, this team is filled with so much heart and guts and determination that it is impossible for me to be any more proud of their effort in this tournament," said an emotional U.S. coach John Ellinger. "We did everything we could to get a goal tonight but it just wasn't to be."

Due to yellow cards from previous games both teams went into this game at less than full strength.

Ghana was missing two regulars, Lawrence Kainya and Michael Essien, whilst the USA was missing the red card-

ed Seth Trembly.

For the fifth time in six games in the tournament, the U.S. surrendered the first goal of the match, with Pimpong Razak hitting a thunderous header from six yards out that cannoned off the underside of the cross bar to make the score 1-0 in the 35th minute. The goal was set up by a perfect flicked header from Barnard Dong-Bortey off a corner kick from Ishmael Addo, who did well to force the corner off of the leg of U.S. defender Nelson Akwari just prior to the goal.

Ghana had a chance to double their lead in the 75th minute, but a penalty kick by Addo was stopped by U.S. goalkeeper Delvin Countess with a strong, diving save to his right. Addo had set up the penalty with a powerful dribble into the right edge of the penalty area, where defender Alexander Yi brought him down from behind.

Nine minutes later, Addo did beat Countess with a brilliant strike from 10 yards from the left side of the penalty area, hitting a rocket shot high into the net for his tournament-high seventh goal.

For Ghana, the third-place finish was small consolation for a nation which missed out on the championship game after twice winning the tournament and twice finishing second in the 1990s.

The U.S. was scoreless for the first time in 30 matches, dating back to March.

"This team has planted the seeds for Project 2010," Ellinger said. "I believe that U.S. Soccer is well on its way to achieving the goals of better developing players to begin competing for a World Cup title in the next 10 years."

United States - Delvin Countess, Nelson Akwari (captain), Alexander Yi, Adolfo Gregorio, Oguchi Onyewu, Kyle Beckerman (Abe Thompson 63), DaMarcus Beasley, Kenneth Cutler (captain), Bryan Jackson, Landon Donovan, Jordan Cila (Bobby Convey 77).

Ghana - Banahene Owusu (captain), Emmanuel Nkrumah, Michael Donkor, Ibrahim Attiku, Pimpong Razak (Kwame Frimpong Pele 62), Nathaniel Lamptey, Razak Ibrahim, Anthony Obodai, Stephen Tetteh, Ishmael Addo, Bernard Dong-Bortey

Scoring:

Ghana - Razak (Dong-Bortey) 35, Addo 84

Shots: United States 10, Ghana 12.

Saves: United States 10, Ghana 5

Corner kicks: United States 3, Ghana 6.

Offside: United States 2, Ghana 1.

Yellow card: United States - Onyewu 44.

Referee: Tajaddia Fares (Syria).

Assistant referees: Heinrich Mackay (Aruba), Seydou Traore (Mali).

Award to the player scoring the highest number of goals.

Assists (and, if necessary, the number of matches played by the respective team) have only been taken into consideration if two or more players are equal on goals scored.

Ishmael Addo from Ghana won the adidas Golden Shoe award as the top goalscorer

Golden Shoe: Ishmael Addo (GHA) 7 / 2

Silver Shoe: Waleed (QAT) 4 / 1

Bronze Shoe: Leonardo (BRA) 4 / 0

The top goalscorers were:

Attendance: 15,675 at North Harbour Stadium in Auckland, New Zealand.

in the penalty shots and it was goalie Rubinho that deserved most credit as he demonstrated great individual talent in the face of his nervous Ghanaian opponents.

Brazil - Rubinho; Bruno Leite, Marquinho, Ricardo and Anderson (Souza) (Leandro); Walker, Augusto, Caca (Wellington) and Leo; Adriano and Leonardo.

Coach: Carlos Cesar Custodio.

Ghana - Owusu; Donkor (Frimpong), Essien, Attiku and Osei (Pimpong Razak); Lamptey, Ibrahim (Sumaila Abdallah), Obodai and Tetteh; Ishmael Addo and Dong-Bortey.

Coach: Jones Attuquayefio

Goals:

Brazil: Leonardo 26th, Tetteh, own goal 28th,

Ghana: Lamptey 66th, Addo 81st

Yellow cards:

Obodai (GHA) 15, Essien (GHA) 27, Marquinhos (BRA) 39, Ricardo (BRA) 53, Tetteh (GHA) 55, Caca (BRA) 68, Osei (GHA) 76, Nkrumah (GHA) 93.

Referee: Costas Kapitanis (Cyprus)

Linesmen: Igor Sramka (Slovakia) and Konstantin Piskov (Bulgaria).



Leonardo, scorer of a Brazilian goal in the semi final victory over USA.

The adidas Golden, Silver and Bronze Ball Awards go to the outstanding players of the competition, as voted by the local and international media present at the U-17 World Championship.

USA's Landon Donovan won the Golden Ball as the outstanding player of the World U17 Championships.

Golden Ball: Landon Donovan (USA)
Silver Ball: DaMarcus Beasley (USA)
Bronze Ball: Alvaro Meneses (URU)

In keeping with tradition, the adidas company presented the Golden Shoe

ADDO Ishmael (GHA, 15) 7

LEONARDO (BRA, 16) 4

WALEED (QAT, 11) 4

AITOR (ESP, 15) 3

ATTIKU Ibrahim (GHA, 7) 3

DA SILVA Alejandro (PAR, 9) 3

DONG-BORTEY Benard (GHA, 18) 3

DONOVAN Landon (USA, 10) 3

LAMPTEY Nathaniel (GHA, 10) 3

CABRERA Victor (PAR, 17) 2

FERREIRA Daniel (PAR, 18) 2

LEAL Sergio (URU, 17) 2

MADEJ Lukasz (POL, 9) 2

MCDONALD Scott (AUS, 11) 2

MULLIGAN David (NZL, 7) 2

ONYEWU Oguchi (USA, 14) 2

OUEDRAOGO Issaka (BFA, 14) 2

VALLEJO Hector (MEX, 7) 2

The FIFA Fair Play Award is awarded to the team with the best record of fair play according to a points system and criteria established by the FIFA Fair Play Committee.

The first three placings for this award went to

1 MEXICO

2 GHANA

3 QATAR

LEEDS GO TOP WITH LAST GASP WINNER

N Michael Bridges sent Leeds United back to the top of the Premiership with a last-gasp goal to beat Southampton 1-0.

Bridges struck with a stunning 25-yard volley in the second minute of injury time to end a frustrating afternoon for the Elland Road faithful. It was his 12th goal of the season.

Leeds, who go two points clear of Manchester United at the top, started in great style and created five chances in the first 15 minutes alone.

But with goalkeeper Paul Jones making some superb saves the visitors began to grow in confidence.

Hassan Kachloul and Matthew Oakley both had efforts cleared off the line, while Nigel Martyn saved superbly from Trond Solveld.

Saints had Patrick Colleter red-carded two minutes from time for a second bookable offence.

And after they failed to clear an Ian Harte free-kick in stoppage time Bridges hammered home a brilliant winner.

French World Cup star Thierry Henry netted both goals as Arsenal beat Derby 2-1 at Highbury to go third in the table.

The Gunners were stunned when Dean Sturridge put the Rams ahead after just two minutes.

He latched onto a pass from Israeli debutant Avi Nimni to beat Alex Manninger.

But Henry levelled nine minutes later, shooting home from a superb Marc Overmars pass.

Overmars was again the provider on 51 minutes, playing the perfect pass through the middle for Henry to fire home.

The result leaves Derby still in the bottom three in the table.

Chelsea finally got their title challenge back on track by beating struggling Bradford 1-0 at Stamford Bridge.

Norwegian hitman Tore Andre Flo rammed the ball home from a 16th-minute corner to give Gianluca Vialli's side three much-needed points.

Gianfranco Zola almost doubled Chelsea's lead on the hour when he lobbed the onrushing Bradford keeper Matt Clarke from the corner of the area.

Chelsea held on for the points despite a valiant effort by Bradford, and move up to eighth in the table.

The Bantams remain just one place above the relegation zone.

Newcastle moved above Southampton in the table by beating high-flying Spurs 2-1 at St James' Park.

Stephen Glass broke the deadlock just five minutes in, courtesy of a goalkeeping error by Ian Walker.

But Tottenham striker Chris Armstrong levelled for the Londoners just a minute before the interval.

Greek defender Nikos Dabizas got the winner for the home side on 58 minutes.

Newcastle took just five minutes to go ahead, through Glass.

He got up well to head goalwards from a Nolberto Solano cross.

Walker fumbled the ball over the line, although Temuri Ketsbaia was on hand to make sure.

Spurs equalised on 44 minutes when Geordie Armstrong converted a David Ginola cross to score on his return to the North East.

Newcastle went back in front 13 minutes into the second half, from a left-wing Solano corner.

Dabizas hurtled into the box unmarked to plant a diving header into the Tottenham net.

Sunderland maintained their challenge for the FA Carling Premiership after winning a five-goal thriller against Watford at Vicarage Road.

Gavin McCann netted in the 70th minute to condemn Watford to another defeat and ensure they stay in the relegation zone.

The Hornets had got off to a flying start when Zaire international Michel Ngonge opened the scoring after four minutes.

Sunderland had started briskly and looked for an early reply.

And they duly got their reward when Kevin Phillips' long-range shot deflected off the luckless Robert Page past the stranded Alec Chamberlain on 24 minutes.

Phillips then got his own name onto the scoresheet nine minutes later.

But Watford weren't prepared to lie down and immediately after the break they levelled the scores via a penalty from the boot of Richard Johnson.

Sunderland came again though and Gavin McCann netted the winner 20 minutes from time.

To complete Watford's misery Xavier Gravelaine was dismissed right at the death.

Liverpool's six-game unbeaten run came to a crashing halt as they lost 1-0 at West Ham.

After four successive wins had thrown them back into the title race, Gerard Houllier's men came unstuck at Upton Park.

With a midfield decimated by injuries their cause wasn't helped by the fact that Czech ace Patrik Berger had to leave the field early in the game.

The visitors had been content to play on the counter-attack in the first period, relying on the pace of Michael Owen for any real threat.

But they were stunned just before half-time when Trevor Sinclair pounced on a rebound to break the deadlock.

Following a neat move down the left Paolo Di Canio rifled in a shot which Sander Westerveld could only parry and Sinclair was quickest to respond to the loose ball as he smashed it high into the net.

After the break Liverpool poured forward but couldn't breach the Hammers' backline.

And more significantly Di Canio's header hit the woodwork at the other end.

Beleaguered Aston Villa manager John Gregory finally had something to cheer after his side earned a point from a 0-0 draw at Everton.

With only two points from a possible 21 points the pressure had been mounting on Gregory.

But his side showed true grit in battling out a point against the Toffees.

Leicester are now fifth in the table after winning 1-0 at Coventry.

England striker Emile Heskey struck on the hour to give the Foxes all the points.

The Sky Blues had been in impressive form over recent weeks but in an enthralling clash at Highfield Road they couldn't find a way past Swedish international shot-stopper Magnus Hedman.

The goal came on the hour mark when Heskey showed great individual skill to beat three defenders before unleashing a thumping drive past Hedman.

Wimbledon grabbed a point from a 0-0 draw against Middlesbrough.

Boro had threatened Neil Sullivan's goal throughout the clash but the match was more likely to be remembered for the Riverside fans jeering manager Bryan Robson after he replaced Brazilian Juninho with Robbie Mustoe.

Sunderland had started briskly and looked for an early reply.

And they duly got their reward when Kevin Phillips' long-range shot deflected off the luckless Robert Page past the stranded Alec Chamberlain on 24 minutes.

Phillips then got his own name onto the scoresheet nine minutes later.

But Watford weren't prepared to lie down and immediately after the break they levelled the scores via a penalty from the boot of Richard Johnson.

Sunderland came again though and Gavin McCann netted the winner 20 minutes from time.

To complete Watford's misery Xavier Gravelaine was dismissed right at the death.

Liverpool's six-game unbeaten run came to a crashing halt as they lost 1-0 at West Ham.

After four successive wins had thrown them back into the title race, Gerard Houllier's men came unstuck at Upton Park.

With a midfield decimated by injuries their cause wasn't helped by the fact that Czech ace Patrik Berger had to leave the field early in the game.

The visitors had been content to play on the counter-attack in the first period, relying on the pace of Michael Owen for any real threat.

But they were stunned just before half-time when Trevor Sinclair pounced on a rebound to break the deadlock.

Following a neat move down the left Paolo Di Canio rifled in a shot which Sander Westerveld could only parry and Sinclair was quickest to respond to the loose ball as he smashed it high into the net.

After the break Liverpool poured forward but couldn't breach the Hammers' backline.

Chris Beech stunned Nationwide Division One league leaders Manchester City with the deciding goal for Huddersfield at Maine Road when he converted a Steve Jenkins cross in a game which lived up to its billing as Match of the Day.

Steve Bruce's men leapfrogged Charlton to go second in the table with their seventh win in eight games.

Veteran striker Clive Mendonca should have kept Charlton on the heels of the leaders with a first-half brace which looked to have put paid to struggling Port Vale.

He converted an Andy Hunt knockdown and rammed in a close-range header in the space of 24 minutes.

But it was a far from happy Valley when Tony Rougier ran through to score 90 seconds into the second half and Martin Foyle upset the formbook with an equaliser.

Queens Park Rangers came from behind to maintain their unbeaten home record but it was a close-run thing against fifth-placed Barnsley.

Geoff Thomas, the 35-year-old midfielder, put the South Yorkshire club in front but Jermaine Darlington equalised after a 40-yard run and a powerful finish from the edge of the penalty area.

Swedish international Robert Steiner put the Rangers in front eight minutes before the break only for Barnsley full-back Nicky Eaden to grab the leveller.



Michael Bridges ... last minute winner.

Ipswich got off to a great start against lowly Crewe, David Johnson netting after only four minutes.

Mark Rivers equalised against the run of play for Crewe only for Johnson to score his second with a powerful right-foot shot to complete a 2-1 Ipswich win.

Birmingham should have made short work of bottom club Swindon when, Martin Grainger put them in front after 26 minutes.

But they failed to make the most of their overall superiority and Ify Onuora's diving header earned the visitors a point.

Per Frandsen, starting his first game since his move from Bolton, put Blackburn on the road to victory against Stockport and Egil Ostenstad sealed a welcome win for caretaker manager Tony Parkes.

Crystal Palace continued their extraordinary improvement under Steve Coppell by inflicting another defeat on Nottingham Forest.

Leon Mackenzie put Palace in front after 33 mins and Matt Svensson sealed the victory after 67 minutes.

Portsmouth and Bolton played out a goalless draw which will have come as some relief to Alan Ball who got the dreaded vote of confidence last week.

Tranmere continued their revival under John Aldridge despite having Graham Allen sent off as early as the eighth minute against Wolves.

Wayne Allison was soon on the goal trail and the Rovers moved up to 12th in the table.

West Brom had Sean Flynn carried off against Sheffield United and were soon behind when Martin Smith ran 45 yards to finish clinically.

Enzo Maresca equalised and Bruno Ribeiro put troubled United back in front before Micky Evans levelled for the second time.

Managerless United had Davy Gyabrech sent off for a second bookable offence.

Coventry (0) 0 Leicester (0) 1

Coventry: Hedman, Telfer, Breen, Williams, Burrows (Frogatt 46), Hadji, McAllister, Palmer, Chippo, Rousset (Whelan 35), Keane.

Subs Not Used: Ogrizovic, Konjic, Eustace.

Booked: Williams, Whelan, Keane, Palmer.

Leicester: Flowers, Taggart, Elliott, Sinclair, Impye, Savage, Izzet, Lennon, Guppy, Heskey, Cottie.

Subs Not Used: Arphaxad, Walsh, Marshall, Oakes, Zagorakis.

Booked: Taggart.

Goals: Heskey 60.

Att: 22,021

Everton (0) 0 Aston Villa (0) 0

Everton: Gerrard, Dunne, Gough, Weir, Unsworth, Barnby (Grant 77), Hutchison, Collins, Pembridge, Campbell, Jeffers.

Subs Not Used: Cieland, Ball, Xavier, Simonsen.

Booked: Hutchison.

Att: 34,750

Middlesbrough (0) 0 Wimbledon (0) 0

Middlesbrough: Schwarzer, Stamp, Festa, Vickers, Cooper, O'Neill, Juninho (Mustoe 62), Ince, Ziege, Ricard (Armstrong 61), Deane.

Subs Not Used: Fleming, Gascoigne, Beresford.

Booked: Mustoe.

Wimbledon: Sullivan, Cunningham, Kimble, Hreidarsson, Thatcher, Earle, Euell, Andersen, Cort, Gayle, Leaburn (Hughes 80).

Subs Not Used: Jupp, Blackwell, Heald, Badir.

Booked: Euell.

Att: 31,400

Watford (1) 2 Sunderland (2) 3

Watford: Chamberlain, Page, Palmer, Robinson, Ngonge (Noel-Williams 79), Johnson, Wooter (Hyde 79), Gravelaine, Williams, Miller (Gibbs 46), Cox.

Subs Not Used: Day, Smith.

Sent Off: Gravelaine (90).

Booked: Miller, Williams.

Goals: Ngonge 4, Johnson 49 pen.

Sunderland: Sorensen, Gray, Butler, Summerbee, Quinn, Phillips (Reddy 89), Craddock, Williams, Schwarz, McCann, Roy (Ball 76).

Subs Not Used: Marriott, Rae, Thirwell.

Booked: Schwarz, Summerbee, Butler.

Goals: Page 24 og, Phillips 33, McCann 70.

Att: 21,590

West Ham (1) 1 Liverpool (0) 0

West Ham: Hislop, Margas, Ferdinand, Ruddock, Sinclair, Lampard, Lemes, Cole, Keller, Wanchope (Kitson 77), Di Canio.

Subs Not Used: Forrest, Moncur, Foe, Potts.

Goals: Sinclair 44.

Liverpool: Westerveld, Song (Meijer 70).

Subs Not Used: Hyppia, Matteo, Henchoz, Heggem, Hamann, Gerrard, Berger (Thompson 16), Murphy, Owen (Staunton 75).

Goals: Flo 16.

Bradford: Clarke, Halle, Wetherall, O'Brien, Myers, Lawrence, Windass, Redfearn, Whalley (Blake 68), Beagrie, Mills (Rankin 89).

MISERY FOR CELTIC AND RANGERS



Hearts Gary McSwegan

Don Goodman's second-half winner gave Motherwell a 3-2 victory in an incident-packed encounter at Fir Park as Celtic were unable to capitalise on a surprise defeat for leaders Rangers on a

disastrous day for the Old Firm.

Ged Brannan gave the home side a ninth-minute lead with a sweetly-struck free-kick from the edge of the box.

Eyal Berkovic's glancing header levelled the scores in the 20th minute following good work down the right from Stilian Petrov.

Mark Viduka put the visitors 2-1 ahead, coolly despatching a 26th-minute penalty after he had been felled in the box by Shaun Teale.

Derek Townsley levelled the score for the hosts just before the break, cutting inside Alan Stubbs and calmly slotting the ball past Jonathan Gould.

And Goodman completed 'Well's comeback when he latched onto the ball in space and fired home in off the post after 49 minutes.

Earlier in the day, Gavin Rae had stunned Rangers with a sensational injury-time winner for Dundee at Ibrox.

The Scotland under-21 midfielder took a pass from Steven Boyack on his chest before finding the corner of the net.

Rod Wallace looked to have spared the blushes of the home side when he cancelled out Craig Ireland's surprise early opener with 20 minutes remaining.

The 'Gers striker was on hand to tuck away the equaliser after Neil McCann had headed onto the post from an Andrei Kanchelskis cross with Robert Douglas beaten.

Dundee United consolidated third place in the table with a tense victory over St Johnstone.

Jan Telesnikov's scintillating strike in the 17th minute was enough to clinch all three points.

More misery was heaped on under-fire Aberdeen boss Ebbe Skovdahl as his side were sunk 2-0 by Hibernian.

Both goals came in the first half with Pat

McGinlay and Mixu Paatelainen on target on 25 and 35 minutes respectively.

Fellow strugglers Kilmarnock struck twice in the last 17 minutes to earn a 2-2 draw against Hearts who had a player sent off for the third time in a week.

Gary Locke saw red after receiving a second yellow for a late challenge on Killie's Ally Mitchell in the 73rd minute.

Scottish striker Gary McSwegan needed only seven minutes to break the deadlock at Rugby Park as he steered the ball past Colin Meldrum to shock the Rugby Park faithful.

Then strike partner Paul Ritchie extended the lead with his effort on 22 minutes.

Hearts looked nailed on to take all three points, but Alan Mahood set up a grandstand finale as he struck in the 73rd minute.

Then Mark Reilly equalised in the dying seconds to give Killie a surprise point.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Leeds	16	11	2	3	29	19	35	10
Man Utd	15	10	3	2	35	20	33	15
Arsenal	16	10	2	4	28	16	32	12
Sunderland	16	9	4	3	27	16	31	11
Leicester	16	9	2	5	26	20	29	6
Liverpool	16	8	3	5	20	13	27	7
Tottenham	15	8	2	5	25	20	26	5
Chelsea	14	7	3	4	20	11	24	9
West Ham	15	7	3	5	17	14	24	3
Middlesbrough	16	7	2	7	20	23	23	-3
Everton	16	5	6	5	24	22	21	2
Coventry	16	5	5	6	23	18	20	5
Aston Villa	16	5	4	7	14	18	19	-4
Wimbledon	16	3	8	5	22	29	17	-7
Newcastle	16	4	4	8	27	30	16	-3
Southampton	15	4	4	7	20	25	16	-5
Bradford	15	3	3	9	12	24	12	-12
Derby	16	3	3	10	15	28	12	-13
Watford	16	3	2	11	13	28	11	-15
Sheff Wed	15	1	3	11	13	36	6	-23

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Man City	20	13	3	4	30	13	42	17
Huddersfield	21	12	4	5	38	22	40	16
Charlton	19	12	3	4	36	21	39	15
Ipswich	20	10	5	5	34	23	35	11
Barnsley	20	11	2	7	38	32	35	6
Fulham	20	8	8	4	24	18	32	6
Birmingham	20	8	7	5	32	23	31	9
Bolton	20	8	7	5	29	20	31	9
QPR	20	7	8	5	29	26	29	3
Stockport	20	7	7	6	23	28	28	-5
Wolverhampton	19	6	8	5	19	18	26	1
Tranmere	21	7	5	9	28	30	26	-2

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Wigan	19	10	9	0	38	18	39	20
Preston	19	11	6	2	31	18	39	13
Gillingham	19	10	5	4	37	23	35	14
Bristol Rovers	18	10	5	3	22	11	35	11
Burnley	19	9	7	3	25	12	34	13
Notts County	19	10	4	5	28	20	34	8
Stoke	19	9	6	4	29	17	33	12
Millwall	19	9	6	4	30	21	33	9
Brentford	19	9	6	4	31	23	33	8
Luton	19	8	3	8	23	25	27	-2
Bournemouth	19	7	4	8	26	28	25	-2
Wycombe	19	6	7	6	24	26	25	-2
Bury	19	5	9	5	29	26	24	3
Oldham	19	5	5	9	20	24	20	-4
Oxford Utd	19	5	5	9	18	23	20	-5
Scunthorpe	19	5	5	9	20	31	20	-11
Cardiff	19	4	7	8	22	26	19	-4
Wrexham	19	4	7	8	18	31	19	-13
Bristol City	18	3	9	6	21	26	18	-5
Reading	18	4	5	9	22	34	17	-12
Cambridge Utd	19	3	6	10	28	34	15	-8
Blackpool	19	3	6	10	20	34	15	-14
Colchester	19	3	6	10	20	42	15	-22
Chesterfield	18	2	6	10	11	20	12	-9

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Barnet	19	11	4	4	28	21	37	7
Rotherham	19	11	3	5	28	12	36	16
Peterborough	19	10	4	5	28	21	34	7
Darlington	19	9	6	4	21	13	33	8
Northampton	19	10	3	6	21	15	33	6
Torquay	19	9	4	8	23	20	31	3
Plymouth	19	8	6	5	24	20	30	4
Halifax	19	9	3	7	22	19	30	3
Macclesfield	19	8	5	6	26	29	28	4
Swansea	19	8	5	6	18	14	29	4
Southend	19	8	4	7	25	24	28	1
Brighton	19	7	6	6	27	20	27	7
Hartlepool	19	8	3	8	25	20	27	5
Lincoln City	19	7	6	6	30	29	27	1
Rochdale	19	7	5	7	14	11	28	3
Exeter	19	7	4	8	22	21	25	1
Cheltenham	19	7	3	9	17	18	24	-1
York	19	6	6	7	18			

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE - ROUND TEN

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS v BRISBANE STRIKERS

1	Bob Catlin
2	Shane Pryce
3	Andrew Roberts
4	Adam Sanderson
5	Todd McManus
6	Glenn Sprod
7	Travis Dodd
8	Mark Wilson
9	Chris Tancheski
10	John Buonavoglia
11	Luke Tornich
12	Robert Anglevski
13	Brad Wieczorek
14	Greg Owens
15	Joshua Ferguson
16	Vasko Trpcic
17	Paul Wheeler
18	Andrew Harper
19	Chad Mansley
20	Bradley Swancott
21	Peter Juchniewicz
22	Glen Moore
23	Damien Smith
30	Jason Kos



1	Clint Bolton
2	Glenn Gwynne
3	Shane Stefanutto
4	Andrew Davidson
5	Matthew Bell
6	Brad Dilton
7	Shane Smeitz
8	David Pilic
9	Paul Foster
10	Wayne Shroff
11	Greg Di Losa
12	Pete Dwyer
13	Stuart McLaren
14	Jade North
15	Leo Langone
16	Peter Grierson
17	Jeremy Harris
18	Nick Meredith
19	Wade Baldwin
20	Daniel Duke



Venue: Breakers Stadium - Friday 3 December 7.30PM
 Head to Head: Played 15 Breakers wins: 6 Strikers wins: 5 Draws 4
 Last Week: Breakers 2-1 away win over Cosmos
 Strikers 5-1 home win over South Melbourne

TELECAST SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER 1999 7.30PM
 C7 SPORT CHANNEL 12

WOLLONGONG WOLVES v MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

1	Leslie Pogliacomi
2	George Souris
3	Alvin Ceccoli
4	Robert Stanton
5	David Cervinski
6	Matthew Horsley
7	Paul Reid
8	Anthony Surjan
9	Sasho Dimoski
10	Stuart Young
11	Scott Chipperfield
12	Neil Harlock
13	Noel Spencer
14	Saso Petrovski
15	David Huxley
16	Peter Lahanas
17	Esala Masi
18	Chad Bishop
19	Paul Dimech
20	Daniel Berlame
21	Christian Zelvis



1	Joey Rayher
2	Ivan Jolic
3	Ante Kovacevic
4	Jason Vukadin
5	John Didulica
6	Mark Silic
7	Dragi Nastevski
8	Ivan Kelic
9	Paul Uriovic
10	Mijo Trupkovic
11	Murtala Toyin Abbas
12	Lance Plunkett
13	Paul Magdic
14	Ransford Banini
15	Alex Kriatoglu
16	Brandon Vassalo
17	Roddy Vargas
18	Adrian Cervinski
19	Martin John
20	Zeljko Susa
21	Steven Tillinger
22	Michael Reda
23	Hrvoje Matkovic
24	



Venue: Brandon Park - Friday 3 December 1999 7.30PM
 Head to Head: Played 25 Wolves: 10 Knights wins: 13 Draws 2
 Last Week: Wolves 0-1 away loss to Marconi
 Knights 2-1 home win over Olympic

SOUTH MELBOURNE v PARRAMATTA POWER

1	Milan Udvarac
2	Steve Iosifidis
3	Fausto de Amicis
4	Nick Orlc
5	Con Biatsis
6	David Clarkson
7	Steve Panopoulos
8	Vaughan Coveny
9	Paul Trimboli
10	Michael Curcija
11	John Anastasiadis
12	Richie Alagich
13	Adrian Cuzzupe
14	Anthony Magnacca
15	Goran Lozanovski
16	George Goutzoulis
17	Jim Tsekinis
18	Robert Liparoti
19	Tasos Psonis
20	Chris Jones
21	
22	Mustafa Mustafa



1	Andrew Crews
2	David Barrett
3	Michael Santalab
4	Steve Eagleton
5	Richard Plesa
6	Joe Vrkic
7	Jacob Burns
8	Walter Ardone
9	Mile Sterjovski
10	Joel Griffiths
11	Steve Berry
12	Stephen Laybutt
13	Milan Blagojevic
14	John Angelucci
15	Danny Townsend
16	Mark Byrnes
17	Danny Kukucka
18	Lachlan Campbell
19	Matt Thompson
20	Barney Smith
21	Ahmid Elrich
23	John Gibson
28	Peter Bennett
30	Mike Gibson



Venue: Bob Jane Stadium - Sunday 5 December 6.00PM
 Head to Head: Played N/A
 Last Week: South Melbourne 5-1 away loss to Strikers
 Power 1-1 home draw with Sydney United

TELECAST SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER 1999 7.30PM
 C7 SPORT CHANNEL 12

Tuesday 30 November, 1999

CARLTON v CANBERRA COSMOS

1	Dean Anastasiadis
2	Dave McPherson
3	Craig Deans
4	Simon Colosimo
5	Sean Douglas
6	Andrew Marth
7	Stuart Slater
8	Mark Atkinson
9	Alex Moreira
10	Lubo Lapsansky
11	Archie Thompson
12	Mike Conroy
13	Steve Martin
14	John Markovski
15	Con Anthopoulos
16	David Terminello
17	Joe Tricarico
18	David Della Rocca
19	Serdar Pir
20	Adrian Cagalj
21	Andrew Packer
22	Angelo Motsopoulos
23	Colin Azzopardi
24	Joshua Kennedy



1	David Milin
2	Toplica Popovich
3	Danny Burt
4	Nicholas Purdue
5	Jason Polak
6	David Winnie
7	Daniel Watkins
8	Alex Castro
9	Michael Musitano
10	David Arranz
11	Brian Hamilton
12	Harry James
13	Glen Kolpak
14	Ilija Prenoski
15	Robbie Hooker
16	Nikola Mrdja
17	Geoff Howarth
18	Grant Barlow
19	Scott Conlon
20	Elliot Zwangobani
21	Ivo De Jesus
22	Gabriel Gonzalez
23	Angelo Konstantinou



Venue: Olympic Park - Friday 3 December 7.30PM
 Head to Head: Played 5 Carlton wins: 4 Cosmos 0 wins: Draws 1
 Last Week: Carlton 4-2 away loss to Glory
 Cosmos 1-2 home loss to Breakers

SYDNEY UNITED v PERTH GLORY

1	John Crawley
2	Ray Younis
3	Mark Racker
4	Velimir Kupresak
5	Eddie Bosnar
6	Vince Savocca
7	Mirko Jurilj
8	Nahuel Ararate
9	Mario Jermen
10	Ante Moric
11	Tom Pondeljak
12	Tom Maric
13	Matthew Zec
14	Kain Rastall
15	Aytec Genc
16	Joe Moric
17	Nick Bolevski
18	Steve Bozinovski
19	Greg Satic
20	Steve Tolios
25	Ante Deak
24	Brett Hughes



1	Danny Milosevic
2	Robert Trajkovski
3	Jamie Hamwell
4	Vinko Buljubasic
5	Gareth Naven
6	Scott Miller
7	Troy Halpin
8	Alistair Edwards
9	Bobby Despotoski
10	Kasey Wehrman
11	Peter Buljan
12	Jamos Afkos
13	Dion Valle
14	Edgar Junior
15	Con Boutsianis
16	V

LIVE FRIDAY 3 DECEMBER 5.30 PM

C7 SPORT CHANNEL 13

FOOTBALL KINGZ v GIPPSLAND FALCONS



KINGZ
 1 Michael Utting
 2 Che Bunce
 3 Kiki Van Steeden
 4 Fabin Macolina
 5 Jonathon Perry
 6 Marcus Stergiopoulos
 (below)
 7 Wynton Rufer
 8 Chris Jackson
 9 Fred de Jong
 10 Dino Mennillo
 11 Robbie Middleby
 12 Harry Ngata
 13 Levent Osman
 14 Batrun Suri
 15 Ivan Vicelich
 16 Lee Jones
 17 Maciel Edmilson
 18 Stuart Riddle
 19 Leigh Kenyon
 20 Jason Batty
 21 David Moya
 22 Aaron Silva
 23 Simon Eddy

FALCONS
 1 Bojo Jevdjevic
 2 Dean Fak
 3 Manny Gotis
 4 Mehmed Durakovic
 5 Jeff Hopkins
 6 Brian MacNichol
 7 Andy Vargas
 8 Clayton Bell
 9 Robbie Puca
 10 Sandy Robertson
 11 John Hutchinson
 12 Peter Kakos
 13 Adrian Savage
 14 Doug Marcina
 15 Jonathon Buhuglar
 16 Juan Nilo
 17 Will Hastie
 18 Michael Katz
 19 Ivan Mandic
 20 Simon Miotto



Venue: North Harbour Stadium
Friday 3 December 7.30PM
Head-to-Head: N/A
Kingz:
Falcons:
Draws:
Last Week:
 Kingz: 2-0 away win over Force
 Falcons: 2-0 home win over Spirit



LIVE FRIDAY 3 DECEMBER 7.30 PM

C7 SPORT CHANNEL 12

NORTHERN SPIRIT v MARCONI STALLIONS



SPIRIT
 1 John Perosh
 2 Robert Enes
 3 Matthew Langdon
 4 Matthew Bingley
 5 Mark Rudan
 6 Luke Casserley
 7 Robbie Slater (below)
 8 Tony Perlrich
 9 David Seal
 11 Troy Cranney
 12 Simon Catanzaro
 13 Philip Moss
 14 Shane Lyons
 15 Anthony Farla
 17 Paul Bilokapic
 18 Paul Wearne
 19 Graham Arnold
 20 Jess Van Stratten
 21 Michael Cunico
 22 Paul Henderson
 23 Adam Snyder
 24 Elvis Olic
 25 Ryan Griffiths
 26 Jack Sobczyk
 27 Adam Griffiths
 28 Abbas Saad
 29 Ian Crook
 30 Sean Cranney

MARCONI
 1 Michael Turnbull
 2 Chad Gibson
 3 Mark Babic
 4 Dominic Longo
 6 Fan-Keum Kim
 7 Christian Care
 8 Darren McDonald
 9 Zeljko Babic
 10 Brad Maloney
 11 Mike Smith
 12 Danny Invincible
 14 Buddy Farah
 15 Pierluigi di Gia
 16 Francis Awaritefe
 18 Harry Karl
 19 Brendan Ranaud
 20 David Aceski
 21 Paolo Marchesini
 22 Kris Trajanovski
 23 Vlado Zoric
 24 Josala Junior Sauturaga
 25 Daniel Severino



Venue: North Sydney Oval
Friday 3 December 7.30PM
Head to Head: 5
Spirit: 1
Stallions: 3
Draws: 1
Last Week:
 Spirit: 2-0 away loss to Falcons
 Marconi: 2-0 home win over Wolves



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Northern Spirit v Marconi Stallions Friday night.

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